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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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EUROPEAN LOANS FOR POWER PROJECTS GRANTED

London 8 DAYS in English 4 Oct 80 p 23

[Text] THE EUROPEAN Investment Bank (EIB), the European Community's financing institution, has granted a loan worth 4 million European units of account (1 EUA - \$1.3) to help build an electricity network in the Zerga region, to the north east of Amman.

The loan is for 15 years, with interest at 9.15 per cent, after deduction of a two per cent interest subsidy drawn from Community budgetary resources. It has been given to the Jordanian government under the terms of the EEC-Jordan Cooperation Agreement, which also includes financial and technical assistance. The EEC loan will be channelled to the Jordanian Electricity Power Company which holds the domestic and industrial electricity supply concession for Amman.

The project, which will cost about EUA 8.6m, covers the construction of two 33kV sub-stations, some 30km of underground cable and 80km of low-voltage power lines. The project will start in late 1982, and should accelerate industrial development in the Amman-Zerga corridor, Jordan's largest industrial belt.

EIB has also granted a loan to Lebanon, worth 3 million EUA. The loan will provide part-finance for two new 125 MW generators for the thermal power station at Zouk, near Beirut. The project is estimated to cost approximately EUA 140m. The two new generators are scheduled to come onstream at the end of 1983.

The loan has been made available for 14 years, at an interest rate of nine per cent. The European community has agreed to bear a two per cent interest subsidy. The loan, made under the terms of the EEC-Lebanon cooperation agreement, will be given directly to the Lebanese Council for on-lending to Electricite du Liban. The credit is part of an EIB deal which could amount to as much as EUA 15m.

The Zouk power project is a key feature of the Lebanese government's efforts to pump new life into the economy. It will be the second Lebanese power station to be built with EEC bank aid. A total of EUA 20m was given to the Jieh power station, also built by Electricite du Liban.

CSO: 4820

ISLAMIC INVESTMENT COMPANY'S VENTURES ON RISE

London 8 DAYS in English 27 Sep 80 pp 34-35

[Article by Phil Finnegan]

[Text]

PROSPECTS are looking bright for the world's first large investment company run strictly according to Islamic tenets. After pioneering the development of Islamic bonds and insurance, the company is planning to embark upon the first major Islamic industrial and commercial ventures.

The Islamic Investment Company (IIC) was set up in 1978, in the Bahamas so it could receive the tax benefits of Bahamian incorporation. Its avowed goal was to establish subsidiary companies throughout the Islamic world, the first of which was the Islamic Investment Company of the Gulf. IIC's board of directors is headed by Prince Mohammed al Faisal, son of the late King Faisal, and chairman of the International Association of Islamic Banks.

Since its formation, the IIC has offered a number of Islamic bonds or investment trusts, in which the giving or taking of interest is strictly avoided in accordance with the teachings of the Quran.

The first offering, in early 1979, was for one and three year bonds while the second was for five year bonds. Each bond is divided into 'loan' and 'participation'. The loan is repaid without interest when the

bond reaches maturity and the portion of the bond devoted to participation will share in any profits or losses accruing from investments made by the company.

The investor can choose options of 75 per cent participation and 25 per cent loan, 50 per cent participation and 50 per cent loan, 25 per cent participation and 75 per cent loan or a 100 per cent loan.

The company also offered the first Islamic life insurance in October 1979. The trust opens and closes quarterly, allowing new participants to enter throughout its 20-year life.

Participants contribute \$1,000 each year for 20 years. This sum is returned to the participant at the end of the period, plus any profits made from its investment. If a person dies before the period is up, the full \$20,000 is paid to the participant's heirs.

This scheme is financed by a special 'solidarity fund' to which all participants contribute five per cent of their annual \$1,000. The trust is limited to applicants aged 20 to 45, but a later offering is planned to cover those from 20 to 55 years in two separate pools, the first covering applicants aged from 20 to 45 and the second those

from 45 to 55. In this way the younger applicants will not suffer from the participation of older individuals.

The IIC also plans to offer car insurance and, like the life insurance, it will be cooperative. Participants will make yearly payments for the first five years. If they make no accident claim during that time they will begin receiving free insurance coverage and eventually receive profits from invested funds.

If the insured party has an accident, then the trust will cover his claim and he will begin contributing to the trust again for five years. If the insured party withdraws at any time he will receive his funds and any profits.

There have been two offerings of a trust designed especially for Islamic banks. The bankers' financial certificate is issued in denominations of \$100,000. Banks are allowed to withdraw their money from this trust on a monthly basis. The primary aim of this issue is to help Islamic banks solve one of their most pressing problems — liquidity.

The Bank of America and Bank Suisse Italiano are participating in this offer by guaranteeing the Islamic banks purchasing the financial certificate access to withdrawal rights of up to four times their bond's face value. The two western banks have discovered that encouraging Islamic banking can be profitable because it gives them a chance to meet wealthy clients from the Middle East and at the same time gives them a great deal of prestige in the area.

Proceeds from the sale of bonds go only into very safe investments such as the leasing of computers, railway cars and heavy construction machinery. However, according to Ibrahim Kamel, executive vice president of the IIC, once the company is firmly established investments will be made in other ventures, even in such speculative areas as oil and mineral prospecting. Kamel estimates that the IIC is currently getting a 15 to 17 per cent return on investments.

Bond offerings planned to finance large scale industrial ventures, run according to Islamic principles, have encountered serious difficulties. Negotiations with Volkswagen to set up a joint car assembly plant to produce VW Beetles in Egypt broke down last year. Volkswagen would have provided the machinery while the IIC was to provide the land and some liquid

funds for construction. When these funds were exhausted, IIC was to have made another bond issue for the project instead of resorting to an interest-bearing loan.

'Volkswagen was keen on working with us, but they could not understand how we could avoid resorting to commercial bank loans,' said one employee of IIC. 'They were afraid that the time lapse between bond issues might jeopardise the project.' Consequently Volkswagen withdrew and found a new partner.

The company then began lengthy negotiations with a European pharmaceutical producer to take over one of its European plants, which is on the verge of closure, as a possible alternative for their industrial bond issue.

Kamel says that the company wants to become involved to a greater extent in providing for the basic needs of the Islamic world, particularly in such areas as food supplies. The first project, planned for November, will finance the reconstruction of a large, Arab food supply firm. The IIC is to purchase cargo ships — perhaps as many as eight — at a cost of \$8m to \$12m each, and will allow the food supply company to use Islamic leasing in order to purchase the ships.

A second issue, which has been planned for some time, is to expand the cultivated area in Prince Mohammed al Faisal's 243,000 hectare agricultural development project at Damazin in Sudan. The issue has been slowed down by complex negotiations with the Sudanese government over allowing the new area the benefits which the original project enjoys.

In accordance with the company's wish to help meet the basic needs of the area, an offering is planned to help an unnamed Gulf country finance the construction of two

power stations at a cost of \$30m. 'They were ready to sign with a consortium of European banks but when we showed them our terms they realised they were much better so they decided to finance the construction through us.' The offering should further contribute to the IIC's growing prestige.

Kamel is optimistic about the IIC's future. Revenues of oil rich states are increasing each year. According to the Bank of England, Opec's foreign assets, most of which belong to Islamic countries, totalled about \$115bn at the end of 1979. 'Our target is to have about \$6bn of that surplus under management by 1985.' (Total funds now under the IIC's management are a closely guarded secret because oil states investing with the IIC do not want their total investments known.)

The company is expanding its operations to include new countries. Currently, bonds are sold through offices in Cairo, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Damman and Geneva. A new subsidiary is being created in Pakistan with a capital of \$3m, 51 per cent owned by the IIC. Other new branches are being considered in Nigeria and Turkey.

Particularly crucial to the company is the official approval of Saudi Arabia. Already some 60 per cent of all bonds are sold to Saudi investors, but official sanction would greatly facilitate increased sales. Crown Prince Fahd wrote to the company in December 1978 saying that approval would be given, but the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency has waited to see how the company does before giving its approval.

There is a long term goal involved in the sale of Islamic bonds — the creation of an Islamic financial market. Abdul Aziz Hegazi, Egypt's former prime minister who initiated Egypt's open door policy and who is now a convert to Islamic banking, told *8 Days* that Islamic bonds are one of the major factors which, he hopes, will lead to the creation of an international Islamic stock market.

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ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ISLAMIC BOOK EXHIBITION--Abu Dhabi, Oct. 12 (Ittihad)--The biggest Islamic book exhibition will be organised during the next two months in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Al Ain. The national committee entrusted with the organisation of the celebrations on the advent of the 15th Hijri century headed by Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister Mohamed Abdul Rahman Al Bakr will approve, at its next meeting, to be held after the Eid holidays, the plans for holding the exhibition. A number of libraries and publishing houses from the Arab world will participate in the exhibition to be held over ten days in each of the three cities. /Text/ /Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 13 Oct 80 p 3/

CSO: 4820

USSR OPENS POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE IN KABUL

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 14 Oct 80 p 3

[Text] The friendly country of Soviet Union has taken a major part in the efforts of Afghanistan towards development. The remarkable economic and technical co-operation of USSR has been instrumental in the achievements made by people of Afghanistan in all socio-economic fields. One of the remarkable assistance of Soviet Union to this country is the gigantic educational establishment of Polytechnic Institute, a most modern educational institute in the country, where 2,000 students are enrolled, studying various fields such as industrial and civil engineering, hydro-technic engineering, road construction, geology, development of useful mines, development of gas and petroleum, extraction of mines, electronic, etc.

In an interview the Chancellor of Polytechnic said that after the victory of Saur Revolution the Kabul Polytechnic Institute has been recognised as an independent institute, functioning within the framework of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education. The Institute has

three colleges such as college of architecture, college of geology and college of technology. The duration of study in the institute is five and half years at the end of which the students are given masters degree.

The Institute, built through grant-in-aid of our great neighbourly country of Soviet Union, was officially opened in 1969. Some six million roubles is spent by Soviet Union in construction of the Institute.

At the beginning 185 Soviet lecturers and personnel helped the Afghan personnel in carrying out the teaching programmes of the Institute. And, now some 100 Soviet lecturers and laboratory technicians and some 135 Afghan teachers are teaching at the Institute.

In the course of eleven years since the opening of the Institute, 1100 engineers in various fields and at high level of education have been graduated from the Institute.

In reply to another question the Chancellor of Kabul Polytechnic Institu-

te said that when the Institute was separated from the Kabul University, the ground was prepared for establishing three colleges within the Institute and in the future other fields such as repair of vehicles, and tractors and electrifications of urban areas and industrial plants will also be included in the programme of the Institute.

The Institute was able to revise its teaching programmes and implement the post graduate programme with the commencement of the first year of the five year development plan of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. To further enrich the educational level of its local lecturers the Institute plans to introduce the doctorate programme too.

To carry out scientific researches a scientific research department was established within the Institute. A computer centre is also functioning within the Institute.

The abovementioned measure will prove very useful in raising the academic standard of students and

scientific competition with other universities in the country.

Expounding on the construction and educational aspects of the Polytechnic Institute, the Chancellor of the Institute recalled that the cornerstone of the Institute was laid on 14 October 1963 by Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary

of the Central Committee of Communist Party and President of Presidium of Supreme Soviet. The construction work of the Institute began on April 1965 and on 14 April 1967 the first group of students, numbering 250, were enrolled in the Institute. On 29 May, 1969 the Institute was officially inaugurated.

In the first years only general subjects were taught at the Institute and later the Institute was gradually developed and specialised departments were established and as is now seven specialised departments are functioning within the Institute.

The first group of students, numbering 109, were graduated from the Institute in 1973.

CSO: 4920

SOVIET TRACTOR EXHIBITION HELD IN KABUL

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 11 Oct 80 p 4

[Text] KABUL, Oct 9. (Bakhtar).— The Traktorexport exhibition of USSR, displaying the production of that company, was opened in Kabul on 29 September. It will remain open until 16 October.

The exhibition displays variety of industrial, agricultural and road construction equipment. It is being visited, with interest, by great number of people, interested organisations and individual traders.

The representative of USSR Traktorexport company to Afghanistan, Titov, talking to a Bakhtar reporter said that the Traktorexport is the sole exporter of tractors of various powers and purposes, as well as variety of road construction and construction equipment and agriculture tools from Soviet Union to other countries.

The company was established in 1961 and since then it has exported more than 400,000 tractors, agricultural tools, 30,000 road construction machine and other machinery to various countries of the world.

At present 640,000 tractors, produced by Soviet tractor producing companies, are functioning on agricultural farms in that country.

Likewise, more than 2,000 Soviet manufactured tractors are functioning in agriculture sector in the De-

mocratic Republic of Afghanistan. Another 350 tractors with ploughs and tractors, ordered by Afghan Agricultural Development Bank is being supplied, which will be delivered in the course of next year.

The technical service and repair of equipment is carried out in two stages, one included a year guarantee given by company for 1,000 hours operation or one year after the delivery of the equipment. The service and repair is done by technical personnel and at the expense of the company. The second stage includes service and repair after the elapse of period for guarantee. These services are rendered by the company but at the expense of the buyer.

As most of the tractors in Afghanistan are operating in northern provinces, well-equipped repair plants are established in Mazare Sharif, centre of Balkh province.

Prior to the Saur Revolution the volume of sale of machinery by Traktorexport reached to one and a half million dollars, however the figure is reached during the current year to six million dollars due to greater attention being paid by the DRA government in development of agriculture in Afghanistan.

The representative of Soviet Traktorexport company said that agreements

have been concluded as regards purchase of tractors and agricultural equipment, road construction with concerned Afghan authorities, with some three per cent reduction in the prices.

The products of Soviet Traktorexport company has the satisfaction of customers in view of technical dependability, and it has won more than 100 golden medals in world affairs. As is now the products of the company is exported to 67 European, American, Asian and African countries.

During the 1971 to 1979 the Company's output was increased by 60 per cent and it is envisaged to produce 1.92 million tractors and 538,000 agricultural tools in the years of 1979 and 1980.

The Company is carrying intensive publicity programme through issuing pamphlets, posters and other means to introduce the Company's products.

The Soviet Traktorexport Company has prepared a training programme for the Afghan personnel. Some Afghans are undergoing training at the Rastkov factory and three other groups are to be sent to the Soviet Union for the same purpose, noted the Soviet Traktorexport company representative.

STUDENT UNION DECLARES OPPOSITION TO EDUCATION MINISTRY MEASURES

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 24 Sep 80 p 11

[Article: "Press Statement of National Union of Bahrain Students"]

[Text] Members of the Kuwait chapter of the National Union of Bahrain Students were taken by surprise when two of their members who were studying at Kuwait University were dismissed without having any specific charge leveled against them. They had been in the final stages of their education.

While we denounce the dismissal which has befallen our students, it is of concern to us to emphasize certain facts that are considered to be the background behind the step to dismiss [those students]. These facts are:

First, the dismissal of the two students was carried out under direct instructions from the educational authorities in Bahrain. The two students did not engage in any activities that would disrupt the security of Kuwait. This was evident in the response which the security official made to the students [who are members] of the union when a union delegation proceeded to follow up on the matter with the security agencies. In addition, there have been numerous precedents in this regard: these occurred from December 1974 to 1978 to our students who were studying at the university. The request for dismissal came through Bahrain authorities or through the cultural office of the Embassy of the State of Bahrain in Kuwait.

Second, the educational authorities in Bahrain did issue a decision early last August demanding that 17 students studying at Kuwait University and a similar number of students studying at other Arab and European countries be denied admission [at their respective institutions].

The National Union of Bahrain Students had adopted a position on the decisions that were issued by the Ministry of Education to regulate students' missions abroad. The union was able to create among students in Bahrain a general state of non-acceptance of these resolutions. The government then resorted to preventing this number [of students from completing their education] in an effort to arouse fear among the students and compel them to endorse these decisions. We believe that the recent step to have those students dismissed [from their institutions] comes under this series of steps that are being engineered by Bahrain's Ministry of Education.

Third, we are rejecting the aforementioned decisions not only because we disagree with them, but also because those decisions are based on an infringement upon a student's freedom and constitutional rights. Suffice it [to say] that one of those decisions stipulates that the student's parent sign a pledge that his son who is studying abroad will not engage in any activities that go against the state's supreme policy. Not only is such an expression adaptable to various interpretations, we refuse to have our parents become hostages in a situation where they could be taken to court by the authorities for actions they did not commit.

Fourth, this point pertains directly to us, the students in Kuwait. We had continuing disputes last year with the cultural office regarding receipt of our passports. As a result, the grants offered to us by the Ministry of Education were suspended. The step to have students dismissed is considered to be a form of moral pressure exerted on students who are union members to make them accept the embassy's point of view in this matter.

The Kuwait chapter of the National Union of Bahrain Students values the efforts that are being made by the Dean of Students Dr Musa'id al-Harun to safeguard the educational future of our students who are studying in the university. At the same time we are calling upon university officials to take action to stop any steps for dismissal that may be likely in the future. The union is calling upon all student organizations and popular Kuwaiti authorities to establish solidarity with its positions and to obstruct the plan of Bahrain's Ministry of Education to paralyze our students' wills and to force upon us positions and policies that we do not accept.

The Administrative Agency

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CSO: 4802

HENDERSON'S DEPARTURE UNANIMOUSLY REQUESTED

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 24 Sep 80 p 16

[Article: "The Arabian Peninsula; Readings in Forbidden Papers; Bahrain: Request for Henderson's Deportation Is Unanimous"]

[Text] A person who has been following the activities of Bahrain's National Opposition will note that part of its general activities is centered around the demand to "deport Henderson" who has been responsible for the agency of political investigations for the past 10 years. The 5 March editorial in the bulletin that is published by the Popular Front in Bahrain stated that "The earnestness of any real openness in Bahrain, or rather the first prelude to such openness, would be manifested in the final deportation of Henderson and his gang from the country."

The editorial added, "People have numerous demands, and we want those demands to be achieved. Despite the points that separate and bring people together, the Popular Front thinks that it is necessary to achieve a basic central demand that would be an introduction as well as a pre-condition to the achievement of the remaining demands. This central demand is exemplified in the deportation of Henderson." The editorial concluded by saying, "To avoid the repetition of this evil tune which more than anything else is an indication of bankruptcy--associating communism and sabotage with this demand--we are saying that this is a regular measure in any country whose people enjoy a minimum of freedoms."

An article in the same issue discussed the six decisions that were issued by Bahrain's Ministry of Education to impose stricter control than had been the case in the past on the activities of students abroad. The article stated, "When the Ministry of Education stands in the way of any student who wants to study abroad, this means that a vast majority of secondary school students will be denied a university education and large numbers will be added to the armies of unemployed in this country."

The article added, "With regard to the decision to prosecute students abroad [because of] their political ideas and beliefs, we are saying that the ministry has no right to interfere in students' political convictions because any citizen has the right to discuss the questions of his country. The constitution which was promulgated by the same authorities gives [citizens] that right."

The article concluded by saying, "We find indications in the ministry's decision of the extreme confusion that is prevalent in the government. We find evidence that the government does not want to have stability and security in the country,

but that it rather wants chaos and disturbances so as to give Henderson further justifications to stay longer in this country."

It is noteworthy here that the aforementioned decisions include the ministry's right to bring back a student who is studying abroad if that student engaged in activities that were contrary to "the supreme interests of the state." The student's parent is to pay the Ministry of Education a sum of money, and the parent is subject to trial during the period of the student's study if the student does not abide by the instructions of the state.

The cover story of that issue included a quick review of the events of the past 5 years which followed the dissolution of parliament on 23 August 1975. We quote the following from this review: "During these 5 years Henderson executed four citizens while they were being brutally tortured. He did so without presenting a single piece of evidence that any one of them had committed a murder or any other crime that would justify comparable treatment or putting him on trial, not to mention killing them."

In another section, "It was sufficient for a member of the National Assembly to talk about the illegality of dissolving the assembly to be taken to prison. This is what happened to Attorney Muhsin Marhum. It was enough for a former assembly member to ask for a return to parliamentary life in 1976 in order to be deprived of [participating in] all the biddings of the Ministry of Public Health. This is what happened to Representative Rasul al-Habashi."

The cover story touched upon the economic, social and political conditions that prevailed during the absence of the National Assembly. These conditions were tantamount to the material evidence that the government's program had failed to solve the general crises from which most of the citizens were suffering. The ouster of the government had become necessary so as to make room for a government elected by the people. However, the price that is being asked for that is calling the former officials to account for their actions during the foregoing period.

The leading article on the Labor Affairs page referred to the sweeping arrests to which the members and leaders of the organizational committee of the Union of Bahrain Labor were being subjected. [The government] thus wishes to divest the masses of the Bahraini people and their national movement of their action arm which can lay down the actual foundation of the question of openness and can in fact bring this matter to a head if the government does not comply with the demands of the people of Bahrain and ignores their struggles for the past years.

The August issue [of the bulletin] included news and numerous political commentaries that dealt with the affairs of the Gulf area and the Arabian Peninsula.

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CSO: 4802

TESTS PREPARING FOR 1981 GENERAL CENSUS DISCUSSED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Sep 80 p 21

[Article by Sami 'Amarah: "Three Successful Experimental Census Operations; Population More Than Doubles in Past 10 Years; Women Lower Their Ages; Men Give Approximate Age"]

[Excerpts] The three experimental census operations conducted in Bahrain during the past few months and concluded a few days ago, in preparation for the 1981 census, confirm that Bahrain's population has more than doubled during the past 10 years.

The tests confirm that the number of Bahraini citizens exceeds that of non-Bahraini residents. The June census operation confirms that there are 250,000 Bahraini citizens and 150,000 non-Bahraini residents. In light of the three experimental census operations, census department officials expect Bahrain to have a population of 400,000 by 1981, compared to 216,000 according to the 1971 census. [This does not substantiate claim in preceding paragraph, and in subslug, that population has more than doubled.]

The census operations confirm the ancient theory that women always tend to claim to be younger than they really are. Men who do not know their exact age, give the closest rounded figure, that is, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50. The average marriage age of Bahrain citizens is 24 for men and 19 for women; for non-Bahrainis, it is 25 to 28 years for men and 25 to 27 years for women.

According to the director of the census department Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Atiyyat-Allah Al Khalifa, the first general population census in Bahrain was conducted in 1941, the second in 1950, the third in 1956, the fourth in 1965 and the fifth and last in 1971, when the population of Bahrain reached 216,000 residents. The sixth census will be conducted on 6 to 15 April 1981. The population of Bahrain is expected to be 400,000 in this coming census.

A Mini-Census

Relative to the recent experimental census concluded a few days ago, Shaykh Muhammad said: "The cabinet gave the census department the privilege of planning and implementing the 6th population census, which pleases us. The work we are currently doing is all being performed by Bahrainis, including preparation of the census form, home calls, the sorting out of forms, and the extraction and analysis of data by computer.

"The third experimental census was a mini-census of residents and dwellings. For this census, we chose a random sample of around 400 Bahraini families from various areas of Bahrain, for the purpose of studying two basic factors:

1. To test the suitability of the census form specifically designed for special locations with constant population increases or decreases, such as hotels, old people's homes, workers' homes, etc.
2. To test the possibility of using the system of census blocs, based on the current address numbering system.

"We began the third experimental census on Monday, 18 August and completed it in a few days.

"The purpose of using random samples is to test specific things. The intent is to learn something specific, not carry out a complete census. For example, in relation to the questions in the forms, are the questions clear or vague? And how many cases could the census worker complete per day?

"On the first day of work, for example, we faced the problem of the very long form with room for 15 family members. It took the census worker 45 minutes to complete one form the first day. On the second day, he was able to complete the form in 25 minutes.

"We are taking into consideration all the above matters in preparing for the general census of 1981. This will be useful in determining how many census workers are needed and how long it will take each worker to do his job.

"In the first and second experimental operations, it took the workers a long time to complete forms for seven families. In the third operation, the forms for seven families took only 3 hours to complete. Therefore, the census committee chairman recommended that each worker complete forms for seven families per day."

Difficulties and Problems

Mr Yasir al-Nasir, director of the third experimental census, discussed the difficulties and problems encountered by census workers on their first day of work. He summarized these problems as follows:

"The training period was short. It consisted of 2 days, 1 theoretical and 1 practical. This caused very minor errors to occur. Of course, these errors appeared on the form, but we corrected them.

"Some people may ask: Why didn't we increase the training period? In reply, I say that this could not be done, because there were many other important things to take care of. The accuracy rate on the first day of the census was 70 percent, increasing to 85 percent on the second day, and to 100 percent on the third day. We have to bear in mind that the young Bahraini census takers are bright and that the citizens spared no effort to provide all that was required of them. Their cooperation undoubtedly encourages us to feel certain that the sixth population census will be the most accurate census taken in Bahrain.

"Another problem may have been communications difficulties, but we tried to overcome these by using radio. The census worker was required to go from his place of residence to the census center (operations room) and then to his work area. Anyone facing problems could contact us at the operations room by radio. By radio, we in turn could give him instructions to help him solve the problem he was facing, such as needing a car because his car had broken down."

Recognizing Mistakes

Shaykh Muhammad, the director of the census department said: "We are trying, through this census, to know our potential, or the potential available to us. We are trying to recognize mistakes, so as to avoid them in the coming general census, God willing.

"For example, in the first and second experimental operations, we noticed that the population pyramid was irregular. An analysis of available information revealed the cause of this, and we are currently trying to rectify it.

"For example, we found that men who do not know their real ages try to give approximate ages, to the nearest round numbers, such as 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65. We also found that women, like everywhere else in the world, try to say that they are younger than they really are. We found these discrepancies after we asked some families for their birth certificates and passports.

"We have asked for birth certificates and passports only to get accurate figures. We only ask for these documents to achieve accuracy."

9455

CSO: 4802

EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL REFORM PROGRAM DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic 8 Sep 80 pp 16-19

[Article by Mu'tasim Rashid: "Engineer Sayyid Mar'i Makes Accusations Concerning Bureaucracy and the Problems of Agriculture, and Absolves the Egyptian Model of Agricultural Reform of Any Blame"]

[Text] The Egyptian experiment in agricultural reform is related 100 percent to the level of agricultural production in Egypt or, in other words, to increasing this production, whether the increase is vertical or horizontal. Therefore, in order for us to evaluate this experiment as we view it on 9 September 1980, we must attempt to review the results which it has succeeded in achieving since 9 September 1952. It was in this light we began our interview with Engineer Sayyid Mar'i.

General Principles

What we had to do was to review the features of the application of agricultural reform in Egypt in order to clearly perceive the basic general principles upon which the implementation of agricultural reform was based. We are not setting new principles here. Nor are we inferring matters which did not concern Egyptian legislators when faced with the issuance of the law or did not concern government executive agencies when faced with actually putting the law into practice.

As Mr Mar'i said: "The fact is that we set up for ourselves a system or model of agricultural reform which has its own direction and goals which derive from the very core of the Egyptian countryside, its needs, and its nature. As I have stated in my first book about 'Agricultural Reform and the Population Problem in Egypt,' the basic foundations of this system are as follows:

1. Determining the maximum amount of property to be owned by an individual and distributing property in excess of this maximum to the peasants. This distribution is supposed to be in the form of property owned by individuals, and rejects the idea of collective farms which threatens individual private ownership.
2. Adopting the cooperative system as a means of guaranteeing the best utilization of the land distributed and the earning of the highest possible income from it.

3. Expansion in the utilization of uncultivated lands. At the time, we made it clear that methods of agricultural reform should be based on private ownership of land, and that it is necessary for the individual peasant to have his plot of land which is distributed to him and for him and his family to be within the framework of a cooperative system which provided a link between him and his fellow-peasants. Since a peasant's feeling of freedom is considered one of the most important pillars of his progress and eagerness to make the best use of his land and increase his production, then there is no doubt that the system of private ownership, supported by the cooperative system, becomes a means of rendering service simultaneously to the peasant and to the national interest."

The Philosophy of the System

Mr Mar'i went on to say: "There was a social, political, and economic philosophy behind this system. Agricultural reform legislation was based on this philosophy, and the application of this legislation was also based on this philosophy. Perhaps this is what induced international organizations, in particular the food and agricultural organizations of the UN, to call the Egyptian system 'the Egyptian model of agricultural reform.'

The reason is that this 'model,' with the philosophy behind it in terms of legislation and application, was based on technical and economic principles. Perhaps the most important of them were the principles of combining the individually-owned farmlands into organized crop rotation cycles and the creation of production, credit, and marketing cooperative bodies in all realms of agriculture at a time when this philosophy achieved the realization of the final objectives of maintaining Egypt's agricultural production."

The Level of Production

Mr Mar'i said: "For any country, being able to maintain or increase its level of agricultural production while at the same time introducing agricultural reform is the real criterion for the success of a given system or 'model.' It is the only sure means of guaranteeing further progress in the carrying out of agricultural reform laws without suffering setbacks. When agricultural productivity decreases in a given country, this is a sign that it has deviated from putting the law into effect. There are many examples of this among the countries of Latin America and in some of the countries of Asia."

Mr Mar'i explained: "If we recall the year 1953, when the 'irrigation districts of the property-owning elite' were seized and distributed to the small peasant farmers and when the critical agricultural systems and necessary cooperative bodies were set up, we find that the results of the philosophy upon which the 'Egyptian model' of agricultural reform is based have clearly become visible in the increase in production of, for example, sugar cane. Other evidence of this is the statistics of the Sugar Co. which we have seen year after year."

The Law Has Its Enemies

"At this point I do not want to digress and talk about the history of agricultural reform in Egypt. But I do want to make it clear that agricultural reform in Egypt did have its enemies when the law was issued. It also had its enemies when lands

were confiscated, and up till the present day it still has its enemies!! Their opinions crop up from time to time. For them, agricultural reform is a type of scapegoat which they use to blame for some of our economic or agricultural problems when in fact these problems originate in other economic sectors.

"Without wishing to digress, I would like only to point out that some people oppose agricultural reform in Egypt not because it is a social project which has the goal of protecting small peasant farmers and, at the same time, fully maintaining agricultural productivity, but rather because they consider it to be a socialist decision which enables the weak to assert their rights in the face of the strong. They oppose it because it provides these peasants, as best as it can, with the means to live a decent life instead of allowing a minority of people to monopolize Egypt's agricultural crops in order to exploit them for the purposes of enjoying their wealth outside of Egypt and spending their excess capital as consumers outside of Egypt--instead of saving it to invest in projects inside the country. I do not say that all of the people in the wealthy Egyptian landowning class did this, but a large number of them did. In fact these people used to wait until they had gathered in and sold the crops before determining the exact amount of money which they collected from the small peasant farmers as rent to be paid for the land which the peasants planted!!

"The purpose of agricultural reform in Egypt was to deal with these abnormal phenomena and to determine the characteristics of the relationship between the landowner and tenant farmer after determining a suitable maximum of how much farmland it was allowed to own. The result was that the agricultural reform law gave rise to a new class in the Egyptian countryside. The people of this class had been virtually slaves of the land and constituted the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of the rural areas."

The Problem of Production

Mr Mar'i added: "Perhaps these circumstances created a suitable climate for increasing agricultural production in Egypt in comparison to what it was before 1952. But whether or not his production today is sufficient or insufficient is quite another problem, and it is unjust to hold either the system or agricultural reform or its Egyptian experiment responsible for this problem. We all know that our population has doubled and that our limited increase in agricultural land areas has not at all kept pace with the population increase. This is especially true if we take into account what has been subtracted from this slight increase because of the building and construction which has taken place on some of the best agricultural lands in the countryside and on the outskirts of the cities. There is this on the one hand."

The World Economic System

"And on the other hand, we all know that the present world economic system is moving in a direction which is completely opposed to the welfare of the developing countries. We see that the industrial products which are produced by the wealthy countries and the petroleum products which are extracted by the OPEC countries are imported by the developing and agricultural countries--are continually showing a rise in prices. We also see that the world level of production of agricultural products is more or less stable or, at best, increases at a rate which does not keep pace with the size of the increases in the prices of oil and industrial goods."

A New Economic System

"For this reason, we have appealed both inside Egypt and, in particular, outside Egypt, at international gatherings and in UN organizations, for what is called a 'new economic system.' This is a system which has the goal of achieving some degree of balance between world prices of agricultural goods and world prices of the oil and industrial goods which the developing countries depend on both for their agricultural production and for their other economic sectors.

"In order to present a clear picture of the extent of the harshness and fraud which is being suffered by the developing countries because of the present world economic system, let me quote only one example: In 1950 or 1951 an Egyptian peasant could buy a farm tractor for 10 gantars of cotton which he produced. But today, in order to get this farm tractor or perhaps even something which is inferior, he has to pay 140 gantars of the cotton which he produces. There is no doubt that our cotton production today, from the point of view of quality, is better than our cotton production of 1951.

The Fault

"Agricultural reform," according to Mr Mar'i, "is not responsible for all aspects of the agricultural problem since agricultural reform has performed its function for society without giving rise to the slightest harm to the level of agricultural productivity.

"As I have pointed out, the fault lies with the population explosion problem, the problem of the present world economic system, the problem of the scarcity of agricultural lands, and the problem of insufficient horizontal expansion which matches the increase in population.

"It may be said today that our cotton production is not sufficient in order to cover our requirements of imported sugar--and this is something that we say with great reservation--but this is not the fault of agricultural reform. It is the fault of the world economic system, on the one hand, and is the fault of our lack of expansion in land cultivation, on the other."

Agricultural Reform Legislation

"As for agricultural reform legislation," Mr Mar'i said, "there is a current trend toward modifying some of this agricultural reform legislation and transferring the ownership of desert and uncultivated lands, on a large-scale basis, to individuals, cooperative associations, and corporations on the condition that they cultivate these lands within 5 years of the date when they take possession of them. But this trend, although it does not conflict with the philosophy of agricultural reform, probably does not represent a basic solution for the problem of expanding our area of agricultural lands. I believe that the government's basic duty in this regard should be to extend the basic facilities and conveniences or the necessary economic infrastructure in order to have these lands cultivated and planted, in order to encourage mechanized agriculture, etc."

The Basic Solution

In the words of Mr Mar'i: "In our opinion, this is the basic solution to the problem of maximum expansion for our agriculture. This is a problem which does not affect the essence of the philosophy on which the Egyptian model of agricultural reform has been based. On the contrary, I emphasize that this model of agricultural reform has fulfilled its role as well as possible and has achieved its mission. If it has achieved its mission, then today we are faced with a problem which is a ramification of it. This problem is that of the bureaucracy within the agricultural reform program. We have established the relationship between the merchants and the tenant farmers, and we have established the maximum limits of ownership of farmlands. The farmlands belonging to the large landowners have been confiscated, and we have completed the distribution of these lands to the small peasant farmers. All of this has been accomplished. Then why is it that today we find that we have a large government bureau which is called the Public Bureau of Confiscation and Distribution!? We find that the committees and some of the courts are drowned in a vast ocean of legal and legislative inquiries. I have already appealed, and I am taking this opportunity to repeat my appeal, for doing away with these bureaus and doing away with these legal ramifications and court cases so that those occupied with them will be free to engage in other more productive activities and promote land cultivation projects. Right now it would be sufficient for us to have a technical agricultural bureau which would undertake to provide guidance for those who are benefiting from the agricultural reform and show them the way toward a continuation of the increase in agricultural production and a continuation of vertical expansion."

9468

CSO: 4802

VIOLENT ATTACK UNLEASHED AGAINST QOTBZADEH, BAZARGAN

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Oct 80 p 12

[Article by A. Agah: "That Government's and 'That Minister's' Mistakes"]

[Text] Radio Monte Carlo quoted a former cabinet minister (preceding Raja'i's cabinet), as having said that he considers the Iraqi attack on Iran as the outcome of numerous "mistakes" committed by the present Iranian Government. The aforementioned minister, who has held lengthy interviews with foreign press and television, and whose hostility towards the student followers of the imam became evident, more than any other minister, by the statements he made during the program (Voice) and Profile of the Islamic Republic, has also added that: "The present government is not in a position to efficiently run the country."

This former minister, whose premature and untimely judgments regarding the news about the arrest of the shah in Panama, and the hue and cry which followed it, helped more than anything else to provide foreign media with ammunition needed to "discredit" and point out the "mistakes" of the previous government. Even though, he was and is well known as a liar, part of his statement quoted by Radio Monte Carlo is not far from the truth. He has called the Iraqi attack on Iran as being the result of "numerous mistakes" committed by the Iranian Government. Among one of these mistakes committed by the Iranian Government was the appointment of "that minister" to one of the country's most sensitive positions at a time when the nation was engaged in its most crucial struggle against one of the most bloodsucking international colonial powers. People and many newspapers, at the very outset had protested and were quite aware that the "line" followed by the minister was very much different from that of the imam. In his speeches, in his meetings with foreign guests, and in his contacts with domestic and international media, whenever the opportunity presented itself, he attacked and scorned the courageous action of the students who follow the imam's line and continued to cleverly negate the nation's anticolonial struggle.

At that time, many followers of the imam and those who believed in the revolution, warned against the existence of such ministers in the government, insisting that such individuals were doing more harm, than good to the revolution. Unfortunately, no one paid attention to these warnings until Raja'i

formed his government. The reason for the protests of the adherents to the revolution and the press was that they believed that considering the importance of the ministry he was in charge, the minister was acting, intentionally or not, in a manner that could be effectively reflected outside the country as that of the government. This was certainly true. During the entire period he was in charge of that ministry, no policy was formulated to distinctly represent the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. No basic and fundamental actions were ever taken by the minister and organizational appointments were made based mainly on the minister's personal attitude and assumptions and, therefore, hopes and expectations from the ministry were not fulfilled. Thus, it was clear from the very beginning that inclusion of that minister in the government had been a "mistake." He has now proven this in his Radio Monte Carlo interview. If the previous government (prior to Raja'i) had committed "numerous mistakes," one of those "mistakes" was the appointment of this man to a sensitive ministry. The other "mistake" was the dismissal of protests and warnings issued by the people and the press regarding the keeping of the minister in such a position which later became the source of further "numerous mistakes" by the government.

Judgments of a Morning Newspaper Writer

When tens of thousands of Moslem fighters, city folks as well as people from rural areas, are risking their lives to defend the honor of their country, one of the "morning" newspapers, a latecomer who wants to get ahead early, has published, on page six, the views expressed by a leading clergy. With all due respect to religious leaders, their views and recommendations, publishing the views expressed on 20 Shawal 1400 [31 Aug 80], "a month and a half later" and during the war with Iraq, could not be dismissed as a purely innocent act by the "morning paper," especially when it discusses such issues as guardianship of the jurispudent [rule of the grand ayatollah], distribution of wealth, property seizure, decrees of the revolutionary courts and judgeship. These are complex issues, which, ever since the formation of the Islamic Republic and the Assembly of Experts, have been subjects of discussions and were used as a means of creating division and dissension among people.

At a time when enemies have surrounded us, on the ground and in the air and the Iraqi, American and Israeli mass media and their supporters are busy doing everything to unsettle our nation, it is unfair for a newspaper, which has blossomed under the shadow of the Islamic Republic, to be managed by people so "unbalanced",* who stand ready to ignore conditions created by war and try to sow dissension on the one hand, and swim against the current and turn back the clock, on the other.

*[The word "unbalanced", or "namizan" in Persian, is a transparent remark to identify former prime minister Bazargan, who is publishing a newspaper called MIZAN, which means "balance," whereas the word "namizan" means "lack of balance." I.E. Bazargan is indirectly being presented as an unbalanced person.]

In the Persian language, such actions are called "a stab in the back." The attention of the entire nation has now turned west, to the criminal Saddam, to the consequences of his action and to his disgraceful fate. Our people are observing the blackout and are passing a portion of their existence in darkness. Most business activities are either stopped or are slowed down because of the war-imposed restrictions. Unpredictable shortages and inadequacies lie ahead. Yet people endure all these hardships in order to be able to settle their accounts with the blood-thirsty enemies, namely America and its protege Saddam. Why are you trying to undermine this unity of mind and national solidarity?

When thousands of farmers and their sons are risking their lives thousands of kilometers away in the west defending their country, not only you are not with them in the trenches but are also busy using a 2-month old letter written by a religious leader to complain about the taking of land away from some fugitive landlord, which perhaps has not been given yet to that fighting farmer's son.

Whether it is true or not, but the BBC reported several nights ago that invading Iraqi soldiers are busy stealing sewing machines and bicycles stored in warehouses of Khorramshahr's customs. Barely have they arrived and already they are taking away war "booty."

The action taken by that morning newspaper is not only similar but much worse than those taken by the Iraqi soldiers. It is not yet quite clear what is to be done in our war with Iraq just as the Islamic Republic is not quite sure how to deal with the opponents and dissension makers. These gentlemen are already trying to divide the "booties" of the war.

It is no surprise that the people end their slogans, saying: "Death to dissension causers." Truly, death to dissension causers.

9561

CSO: 4906

AYATOLLAH SHIRAZI CRITICIZES RECORD OF REPUBLIC

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran has not turned out to fulfill the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution in all respects, charged Ayatollah Shirazi, a prominent religious leader, in a letter addressed to President Abolhasan Banihadi, Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajavi and deputies of the Iranian Parliament.

He said in the letter which was published in the Persian daily "Mezan" that the Islamic Revolution had been achieved with sacrifice of tens of thousands of lives of young martyrs, and its primary objective was to effect a transformation of society on Islamic lines.

It was the hope and wish of one and all who cherished the revolution that there would have been greater unity and a sense of fulfillment in the Islamic Revolution, he continued. However, such hopes had been less than met the expectations of these people because of the ever increasing friction within government circles, between those in authority on the one hand and between groups of people who held divergent opinions on the other, Ayatollah Shirazi argued.

The prominent religious dignitary alleged that false

accusations, unIslamic judgments and punishments, executions and unjust confiscations of property seemed to have been the order of the times.

He said that he had earlier referred such misdeeds to the president, to the interior minister and to the Revolutionary Council but was surprised by the indifferent response to his appeals and to their refusal to publicize his allegations.

He added that if his arguments had been given a hearing and investigated it would have resulted in advantage to the Islamic Revolution.

Ayatollah Shirazi said that a complete review should be made of all earlier bills passed in Parliament, of all regulations and promulgations, and all those which did not conform to Islam should be annulled.

As regards the Constitution itself and certain laws contained in it, the religious leader said, they were mostly in conformity to Islam but a few articles needed amending. He did not say what the articles were. But he suggested that the members of the Guardian Council in Parliament should meet with representatives of the Marja-Taqlid (Supreme religious leaders) in

order to effect one hundred per cent Islamic changes in the parliament.

He stressed the importance of upholding Vilayat Faqih - the supreme authority of the religious head of the state - saying that this was a cornerstone in an Islamic administrative system and no article in defining this should be left in doubt, or contain flaws in interpretation. In order to effect truly Islamic changes the clauses in respect of the Vilayat Faqih should be looked into with care, the Ayatollah said.

In the same way the question of the judiciary and the appointment of all judges should be exercised with the greatest of care. The status of the judiciary stood only next to that of Imamiat (the supreme religious authority which devolves from the special religious eminence of the 12 Shiite Imams, Ayatollah Shirazi said. All judicial positions from that of Supreme Judge to lesser positions, carried important political as well as religious responsibilities, he added. Care should, therefore, be the rule in appointment to such sensitive posts, he concluded.

REPRESSION MOUNTS AGAINST BAHAI COMMUNITY

Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 26 Sep 80 p 6

[Article by Anthony Hyman]

[Text]

WITH the news that seven leaders of the Bahai faith in Iran have been shot by order of the Revolutionary Tribunal, the Bahai community in Britain has voiced its fears for the 300,000-strong minority in Iran. The Bahai faith is looked on by most Iranians as a deadly heresy or perversion of Shia Islam,

There are renewed fears in the 300,000 strong Bahai community — the largest religious minority in Iran — of a campaign of repression organised by militant Muslim leaders.

The Bahais are one of five main religious minorities in Iran, together with Christians, Jews, Ismailis and Zoroastrians, but they are the most exposed to waves of popular fanaticism, which have led to serious incidents of killings and damage to Bahai property, ever since the middle of the last century, when the religion was founded in Iran.

In recent incidents in towns all over Iran, local Bahai leaders have been arrested merely because they were members of this faith. Some have been executed. In Yazd, central Iran, seven Bahais were killed recently.

There are well-grounded fears that in the present state of politics in Iran, popular prejudices may be whipped up against Bahais by interested circles, and that they may be made scapegoats for Iran's problems.

Some observers have seen a parallel with Bahais in the Jews in Europe, where anti-semitism has flourished in the past and been exploited for political purposes. Like Jews in many European countries, Bahais in Iran tend to be better educated,

more prosperous than average, and provide obvious targets for envy.

It is also the fact that the Bahai faith is looked on by most Iranians as a deadly heresy or perversion of Shia Islam that makes members of this numerous and influential community fear that intolerance and prejudice could be converted into a nationwide persecution.

Already this year, numerous confiscations have been made of Bahai holy places, hospitals and other properties owned by the community, while mullahs (Muslim leaders) have repeatedly called for Bahais to be dismissed from state service and to be handed over to the revolutionary courts.

Bahai leaders maintain that the sole crime of which they are guilty is belonging to this controversial community — all too often branded by Shia leaders as a harmful political faction and an agent of imperialism or Zionism.

Accusations of being part of an international conspiracy against the Iranian revolution are commonly made against Bahais. They arise from the international nature of the religion, with converts scattered around the world. The historical accident that the chief shrine of the Bahai faith in Israel is a serious complication for them, with present day tensions and strong sympathies with the Palestinian cause in Iran.

Some Bahai spokesmen assert that another motive for attacks on their com-

munity inside Iran is the wealth available for redistribution after confiscation of property — and there is no doubt that the notoriety of certain Bahai businessmen who became very rich under the Shah's rule (along with many Shia's too) have added to public prejudices against them.

The other religious minorities in Iran are certainly less exposed, enjoying a more honourable status as 'People of the Book' (i.e. a revealed scripture which Muslims too recognise) like Christians and Jews or like Zoroastrians and Ismailis, having lived side by side with Muslims for so many centuries that they have become accepted to a large extent.

Yet even among the Armenian and Assyrian Christians, who account for most of the 200,000 Christians in Iran, signs of stress and strain have appeared, only this summer Armenian Church leaders advised Armenian women to "pay special attention to the issue of their dress in offices and work places," by wearing headscarves and long-sleeved dresses.

In effect, this means that Christians are being asked to adopt 'Islamic dress,' as ordered by Ayatollah Khomeini for all Muslim women, although theoretically, the new Iranian Constitution imposes no such duty on protected religious minorities.

Although Armenian Church leaders have co-operated so far in trying to lessen potential causes of friction, the atmosphere of religious bigotry and fanaticism

in Iran is likely to bring further disputes both within the Christian community and between their local leaders and Shia-dominated komitahs, which have become a law to themselves.

There are, of course, limits beyond which many Armenian Christians will not wish to go, however great the spirit of compromise or acceptance of the inevitable shown by Church leaders. An end to co-education of the sexes, as well as the ending of separate Armenian schools themselves, are aims of Shia bigots which will certainly be hotly contested.

The future does not look too bright for religious minorities with foreign connections, a feature not only of the Bahais, but also of the Jews and various small Christian denominations with close links to Churches based in Europe.

In spite of repeated assurances from Ayatollah Khomeini and his encourage in the early months of the Iranian revolution, the place of these communities is still unsettled, with the Anglican Church facing persecution of a very ugly nature.

While many of the richer Jews left Iran, along with the rest of the Iranian middle classes, in the last half year of the Shah's

rule, perhaps 40,000 out of the 60,000 strong Jewish community remains in Iran.

Judaism has been established there for some two and a half thousand years — since the time of Cyrus the Great (6th Century BC) — and it is difficult to imagine the sudden extinction of such a well-established community, whatever the current difficulties.

Moreover, the remaining Jewish population is for the most part poor, living in Tabriz as a well-defined ghetto, with their own trades and good relations in the past with Shia neighbours. —GEMINI

KHO'I ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTED BY IRAQ VERSUS KHOMEYNI

Paris NAME-YE RUZ in Persian 17 Sep 80 p 1

[Text] A religious element has now been introduced into the Iran-Iraq struggle. Foreign correspondents in Baghdad report that the Iraqi Government considers Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i as the leader of the Shiites of the world in exclusion of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

According to the report published in LE MATIN, Ayatollah Khomeyni has on several occasions told those close to him that he intends to transfer the Shiite religious center from Najaf in Iraq to Qom in Iran. After the success of the Iranian revolution, Khomeyni feels that the location of the center of Shiism in Iran will provide it with greater security than in Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Khomeyni has accused Saddam of being a "small satan", one who is not Shiite but an ardent advocate of secularism in his capacity as the leader of Iraq's Ba'th Party.

Khomeyni's decision has been defied vehemently by Iraq and particularly by Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i who resides in Najaf and is the highest religious authority in Iraq and a rival of Ayatollah Khomeyni. He has said, "I shall stay here and keep Najaf as the religious center of Shiism." With this statement made to an Iraqi journalist, Ayatollah Kho'i has purported to underscore that he is the leader of the Shiites of the world, not Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The Iraqi regime that has embroiled Iran in a war of attrition obviously backs Ayatollah Kho'i in this contention. The location of the Shiite theological schools in Iraq makes it possible for Iraq to control the more committed wing of the religious movement. Besides, Baghdad derives satisfaction from pitting an opponent against Ayatollah Khomeyni who has called for the overthrow of "traitorous Saddam Hussein."

The report adds that in fact the Shiites in the world of Islam, particularly in Lebanon, Iraq and even Turkey, are divided. Those who are against administration of politics by the clergy outnumber the others and support the leadership of Ayatollah Kho'i who is based in Najaf.

9695

CSO: 4906

OPPOSITION LEADERS LABELLED 'QUISLINGS', 'LAVALS'

Paris NAME-YE RUZ in Persian 20 Sep 80 p 1

[Text] By unilaterally declaring the Iran-Iraq Treaty of 1975 null and void, Baghdad has virtually declared war on Iran. In addition to claiming sovereignty over the entire Shatt al-Arab, Iraq also claims about 400 square km of Iran's territory, including Qasr-e Shirin. According to recent reports, Iraq ultimately plans to sever Khuzestan from Iran.

Despite the victory-claiming communiques and press releases of the Iranian Army, the reports received here all speak of the fact that the Iraqi forces are advancing in Iran and have captured several areas. In addition, since yesterday all the foreign ships going through Shatt al-Arab have been flying the Iraqi flag.

What all the mass media agree on and the Iraqi Government has also confirmed is that the Iraqi forces have 'invaded' Iran and are publicly trying to cut off part of its territory. Consequently there is now a state of war between Iran and Iraq. ...However, despite this state of war, a number of Iranians who had made deals with Iraq in order to enrich themselves are still continuing their treachery.

In the pre-war Europe many people used to advocate the Nazi philosophy. But as soon as the war broke out they, too, like the rest of their compatriots, took up struggle against the invading Germans. ...And those who did not fight against the Germans were later executed as traitors. In Norway, an officer called Quisling, and in France a politician called Laval, named themselves patriots and collaborated with the Nazis. However, the courts found them to be traitors to their countries and condemned them to death.

Iran, too, is now facing an invasion. Regardless of whether they favor or oppose the Islamic Republic regime, it is the duty of each honorable and patriotic Iranian to defend his national borders and refrain from cooperating with the enemy under any condition. Those who act otherwise have betrayed their country and they shall be remembered as "Quislings" and "Lavals" of Iran.

9695

CSO: 4906

PRESS POLL QUERIES QUALITIES NEEDED FOR PRIME MINISTER

TA241008 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Oct 80 p 1

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT poll: "What Are the Character Traits That the Public Would Like To Find in the Prime Minister?"]

[Text] Why do you want Begin, Peres or Rabin for the next prime minister? This question was posed to respondents during the current poll of the Israel Institute for Applied Social Research and the Hebrew University Communications Institute, conducted this month. This question was presented at the request of YEDI'OT AHARONOT. The following are the results in percentages:

Characteristics	Begin	Peres	Rabin
The best suitable man	21	22	17
Authority and leadership	19	17	11
Credibility, morality	14	1	29
Good judgment, intelligence	4	7	3
Experience, good functioning	17	16	13
Other qualities	13	11	14
Other reasons	12	26	13

It should be pointed out that the respondents were those who have already made a decision for their preferred candidate among Begin, Peres and Rabin. Those who had not expressed an opinion were not taken into account.

The poll also showed that without any connection to the preference for one candidate or another, the public thinks that authority and ability to perform are the major qualities a prime minister needs (46 percent). From among the respondents, 27 percent pointed to morality and integrity as major qualities, while 18 percent attached more importance to intelligence and wisdom.

As regards the percentage of preference for the different candidates, in October there has been no substantial deviation from the findings of the previous month.

CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

BURG DISCUSSES AUTONOMY TALKS

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Sep 80 p 13

[Interview with Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg: "After The Elections, A National Unity Government"]

[Text] It is difficult to interview Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg. The most veteran of cabinet ministers in Israel, a statesman and politician of rich and varied experience, he knows how to answer. It is impossible to trap him or to get him to say something which he does not intend to say. He carefully chooses his words, he walks between the drops without getting wet. One can see that he is the man for his job. Burg is loyal to the government and the prime minister. If he has a criticism, one must read it between the lines. He says: "For years they did not recognize my character. They thought that I was drawn by MAPAI. But I was not drawn. I am Burg. and in every government in which I serve, I conduct myself in the same manner." Burg does not hide his desire to continue to be active in political life, to lead the NRP in the coming elections, and to serve on its behalf as a minister in the next government. Under present circumstances, there is no doubt that his desire will be realized.

[Question] Does the affair of the investigation of minister Aharom Abu-Khatsira affect the position of the NRP and internal relations within it?

[Answer] The matter of procedures of investigations within a governmental ministry is for the NRP. It has demanded an acceleration of the investigation so that there should not be a perversion of the law. It has spoken out against a smear campaign against religious judaism and parts of it, and it has expressed confidence that the correctness of the people involved in the investigation will come to light. Since we are united in our assessment of the situation, there are no differences of opinion which could disturb the internal peace of the NRP.

[Question] As the minister in charge of the police, have you already drawn some conclusions regarding the form of the investigation?

[Answer] The matter of procedures of investigations within a governmental ministry will be clarified in an appropriate forum. In the meantime we have issued strict orders against leaks. It is unthinkable that the media could make a decision without a trial.

[Question] How do you evaluate the results of Ambassador Linowitz's discussions in Israel?

[Answer] I can say that on our part, a real intellectual effort has been made so that the discussions can continue. On the day that this interview is published, Mr Linowitz will already have finished his discussions with the Egyptians, and everyone will know what the situation is.

[Question] At this point, do you see a serious prospect for progress in the talks, if the Egyptians agree to renew them?

[Answer] If I may distinguish between administrative and political questions, I can say that this year we have progressed on administrative questions in negotiations, but differences remain on the political questions. We must remember that this year was a "leap" year, and that since 8 May 1980, the talks were stopped four times by the Egyptians. There were also many personnel changes in the negotiating teams; in the U.S. Ambassador Strauss was replaced by Ambassador Linowitz. In Egypt, Prime Minister Khalil was released from his post. General Ali was appointed to take his place in the talks, and for our part, our foreign minister, defense minister, and minister of justice were replaced. But essentially, the difficult political questions have remained.

Personally, from the exchange of letters between Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat, as well as the exchange of letters between myself and General Ali, I felt that the Egyptians are raising three principal things, and they are: Jerusalem, settlements, and the general situation in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. These issues appear and reappear from time to time, with different emphasis, and they are the true problem.

The U.S. is concerned that the momentum of the talks not be left to die, and Israel, in all honesty, has expressed its desire to continue the talks. Apparently, the Egyptians have preferred not to hold substantive talks until after the presidential elections in the U.S., and at the same time to demand concessions from Israel, in order to renew the talks that were halted by Egypt. At this time, it is difficult for me to decide what the guiding line of Egyptian policy is on this issue. It is possible that Khomeinism is influencing Egypt from the east, just as propaganda from Libya came from the west. In any event, the theoretical gates have not been locked.

[Question] What has been the true effect of the Jerusalem legislation on the Egyptian position?

[Answer] It is possible that the Jerusalem legislation passed by the Knesset acted as a kind of catalyst. However, the positions were clear before, and the Egyptians have attempted to raise them from time to time during the autonomy talks.

[Question] And yet, wouldn't it have been worth delaying the Jerusalem legislation so as to prevent a slowdown in the process?

[Answer] The debates in the General Assembly and the Security Council justify the expression of unified national opinion in the matter of Jerusalem. On 6 June I wrote to Ambassador Sol Linowitz and suggested to him that the government would not intervene in the process of the Jerusalem legislation, either to accelerate or decelerate it. In addition, I reminded him of the resolution of the Egyptian National Assembly on 1 April, which spoke of "Arab Jerusalem." I also reminded him

of that resolution on 2 July, and in another form I spoke of it to high ranking officials in the U.S. and said that they had no right to condemn Knesset for passing the Jerusalem law when for years, and especially in recent months, an organized campaign has been conducted against Jerusalem, together with verbal pogroms against the state of Israel.

[Question] In view of the harsh reaction to the Jerusalem law, isn't there room for halting the shift of the prime minister's office to East Jerusalem?

[Answer] Since Jerusalem is united, the office can be located anywhere....

[Question] When you accepted your position as negotiator on autonomy, did you ever imagine that our political position would reach such a low point?

[Answer] Our life is composed of processes which are both for the good as well as the bad, in various spheres. The autonomy talks did not cause the low point. But it may be that what you call the low point has affected the talks. The oil weapon and the money from oil were known from before. France has not changed its position for the better within the year. There was from before an European initiative, which crystallized further after the Venetian resolutions, and did nothing to calm the oil consuming nations--all of this has created a very difficult package. Our propaganda activity has to be reinforced in light of the many trips by people from the Egyptian government to African and European capitals. We should renew our struggle for understanding in all countries of the free world. This includes, especially, those countries whose ambassadors left Jerusalem, against the profound recognition of their peoples and the uniqueness of Jerusalem in the history of the world and the Jewish people.

[Question] With your permission, let us move to the area of domestic politics. After Prof Aron's refusal to serve as minister of defense, would you have any preference for filling the position?

[Answer] There are only two possibilities: either a quick solution or a slow one. Only time will tell how the prime minister deals with the problem.

[Question] Will the NRP pressure him?

[Answer] The NRP wants the maximum security for the country. This maximum requires a maximum of good administration of the defense ministry. More I cannot say for the present.

[Question] Minister Moda'i accused you of foiling his appointment as foreign minister for fear that the conduct of the autonomy talks would be taken from you?

[Answer] I am surprised at such talk. Several months ago Minister Moda'i, at his initiative, met with me and said to me that if I had any fears that his appointment as foreign minister would hurt my position as chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Autonomy, he wanted me to know that there was no basis for such a fear. I told him that I had no such fear, and that I was not born to be the minister of autonomy. Since then we have not discussed the issue.

[Question] If so, why then did you oppose his appointment?

[Answer] I, and most of the members of the party were of the opinion that government is not a matter of musical chairs, and that Mr Yitshaq Shamir was well suited to the foreign ministry and that it would be a shame to remove him.

[Question] The NRP supported the proposal to appoint Prof Arens as defense minister. Wasn't there a fear of a government in which the foreign minister, the finance minister, and the (intended) defense minister had opposed the peace treaty? Wouldn't this have seriously damaged the foreign image of the government?

[Answer] I do not like to publicly debate the opinions of colleagues. Your question is perhaps important, though not in the direction which you pointed, by the expressions and actions of Minister Yitshaq Shamir. To be a member of a government it is incumbent upon the minister not to betray his views, but also to take into account reality--be it political, economic, social, national, or international reality. It may be said that in general, a cabinet is united around an average line.

[Question] You have been quoted as one who predicts elections in the spring. Is that prophecy still in effect?

[Answer] In the first weeks of the winter session of the Knesset, the parliamentary picture will become clear. I assume that immediately after the by individuals whose party addresses for the tenth Knesset are not, for the moment known. The disintegration of several factions in the Knesset will no doubt leave its mark on this matter. It may be assumed that immediately after the beginning of the winter session, discussion will begin of several laws which belong to the election, such as increasing the cutoff percentage or a renewed determination of the various times in connection with the "decisive" day of the elections. In debates of this sort, two interesting things will be clarified: first, if there are common interests among the large factions (such as the Badar-Ofer Law), and secondly, at what pace the election will legislation be approached.

[Question] Is the interior ministry ready for the elections at any time?

[Answer] As minister of the interior, I can say that the central election committee exists and is operating. The voter rolls are maintained, polling stations are determined, and the technical aspect is all ready.

[Question] Why is it impossible to hold elections within a month of the dissolving of the Knesset, as is done in Britain and Western Europe?

[Answer] Technically, it is possible. But there are some factors which make such a procedure difficult: there is a law that a senior official or an army man who wants to be a candidate for the Knesset must resign his position 100 days in advance. Some Knesset members also want to update the voter rolls beyond the decisive day, which is the 15th of Av, and to include all those who will be 18 years old as of election day.

[Question] Do you see a renewal of the historic alliance between the NRP and the Labor party after the next elections?

[Answer] Together we wrote many pages of Zionism, realization, defense. We did not reject Jews, Zionists, when they were in the Herut movement, and there is certainly no basis for rejecting cooperation with the workers' camp. I was very sorry about the separation in December 1976, and the manner in which it occurred. The Israeli voter will determine the possibility of various coalition combinations. The NRP, which is a constructive party, sees no reason for rejecting what has been called a historic partnership. However, it may be that after the elections, the parliamentary picture will not be clear, or it may be that the political situation will be such that the establishment of a national unity government will be necessary.

7075

CSO: 4805

WEIZMAN REJECTS CRITICISM OF HIS SUPPORT FOR CARTER

TA282115 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Oct 80

[Interview with 'Ezer Weizman, former defense minister, by Dan Shilon, Israeli television correspondent in New York--videotaped--date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Weizman, these days Air Force 1 is not only the plane of a president but that of a presidential candidate. Your joining that plane has been interpreted as interfering in the internal affairs of the United States and in the election campaign here. How do you explain this?

[Answer] It is true that Air Force 1 is the plane of a presidential candidate--incidentally, it is the plane of a president--Air Force 1 is also the plane of a friend, a friend of the State of Israel and a personal friend. Second, there is quite a bit of hypocrisy when people say that what I did was to interfere in the internal affairs of the State of Israel. [sentence as heard] A large part of our foreign and defense policies rely to a large extent on interference in the internal affairs of the United States.

[Question] Would you elaborate on your remarks?

[Answer] It seems to me that from time to time we--past, present and future foreign ministers and prime ministers--are trying to influence--pressure is a bad word--and also to pressure certain parts of the United States to attain, and justifiably so, achievements for the State of Israel.

[Question] However, they do this with republicans and democrats at the same time. They do not say--just as you said yesterday that were I to make my recommendations as an Israeli....

[Answer] That is true, and I reiterate what I said yesterday. I regard the peace process between Israel and Egypt as one of the most important, basic, historic and largest processes for the State of Israel. I know that there are those who do not think so, several of my friends in the party. Whoever contributed to this process--the prime minister, the Egyptian president and the U.S. President--is, as far as I am concerned, a person who contributed a great deal. It seems to me that the U.S. President's contribution to this process has been made light of to such an extent that, lately, when you ask people both in Israel and in the United States what wrong did Carter do to Israel, they--not everybody

but some of them--will tell you: He imposed peace with Egypt on us. This is one of the most inaccurate things I have ever heard in my life.

When I came here I saw that Carter was being pushed on the issue of the Middle East as if he had done us some wrong. I spent time with him at Camp David with the prime minister and the former foreign minister and during the entire lengthy process of the last 2-1/2 years, I cannot pinpoint any wrong that he has done to us. I know there was a vote at the United Nations, a serious and difficult vote, and Carter admitted his fault.

Therefore, when a friend who has made such a fundamental contribution to an exceptional process--and in view of our relations with the United States, which are not regular relations--when such a friend asks me to fly with him aboard Air Force 1, I fly with him. Whenever any questions were posed to me I only replied on matters concerning the State of Israel and not about the unemployment situation in the United States or about the economic situation there or about the U.S. attitude toward SALT and so on.

[Question] Yet, you still aroused--or may have aroused--many of Reagan's supporters against you, and Reagan still stands a chance of being elected.

[Answer] Whatever I did was not intended to arouse Reagan's supporters against me. I did what I did out of appreciation for President Carter's actions and deeds and out of the feeling that, to a certain extent, people were incited against him, and his actions in this process, which I regard as a fundamental, important and historic process for the people of Israel, were made light of.

[Question] Would it not have been better to thank President Carter by means other than interfering in the election campaign in the United States?

[Answer] First, I do not think that I interfered. I admit, it is true, that my presence on the scene had some influence. The fact is that you are interviewing me, otherwise you would not have interviewed me. Had I come as a regular guest, as a Knesset member, to the United States, I think that you would not have interviewed me perhaps.

I still think that President Carter is a friend of the State of Israel. I think that he has made a vast contribution to the peace process. I think that Carter's value has been made light of. Incidentally, I am not the only one to have said so; the prime minister always lauds him. I do not know if it makes much difference whether this is done 6 months or 1 week before the election. I believe that if Reagan is elected president there will be several good Jews close to him and we will continue to interfere in the internal affairs of the United States in order to have a favorable influence upon the State of Israel.

CSO: 4805

COMMENTATOR FAVORABLY APPRAISES NAVON VISIT TO EGYPT

TA291634 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Oct 80 p 9

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Another Bit of History"]

[Text] As the years go by (yes, it has already been years) the Israeli public's heart has become somewhat hardened to the flood of enthusiastic descriptions of trips along the Cairo-Tel Aviv-Cairo axis. There is not a single superlative that has not been used to describe the "depth of emotion" at the sight of the Israeli flag flying in Cairo or the meeting with Egyptians in Israel and so on. It even seems that we can no longer be surprised by remarks expressing reservations that al-Sadat in fact "does not mean it" and everything he does--the official receptions, the mutual visits, playing "Hatikvah" [Israeli national anthem] on Egyptian soil--all of this is nothing but scheming to cheat naive Israel, as in the well-known joke, in which the Israeli journalist reports to his reading public by referring to a list of standardized reports, since everything is known.

And yet....

When you see the honor official Egypt is giving President Navon, even the most "blase" Israeli can only pinch himself. It is true that we will not go as far as 'AL HAMISHMAR, which gave its editorial about the president's visit the title: "And Tears Come Again To Our Eyes." But we must admit that we are seeing history in the making. It cannot be disputed that Navon is receiving in Egypt everything that Begin dreamed of getting there and did not achieve on any of his five visits. Perhaps for this reason--spiteful people will say--television coverage of Navon's visit to Egypt was given less time than the report on the completion of the Hebrew encyclopedia. It makes no difference that the masses were not organized to come out along the trip's routes. It is impossible to complain if he is not being given the same honor given to Carter, for example. Organized transport of the masses from their places of employment and villages costs a great deal of money, and this is reserved for only President al-Sadat's special domestic needs.

I do not know if, with Navon's visit, we have broken the "human isolation" from which Israel has been suffering in addition to its political isolation, as it was put by one of the papers, but it is a fact that there is no country in the world that has ever given such honor to a president of Israel or any other Israeli leader as that being given to Navon by Arab Egypt. This is true despite the fact that, from al-Sadat's viewpoint, every single month there have been fewer and

fewer reasons to give an Israeli the "red carpet" treatment, nor did anybody force him to invite Navon for such a provocative visit. Certain Arab leaders were obviously close to having a heart attack at what they saw on television precisely at this time.

Obviously al-Sadat had a whole series of political motives justifying the visit for him. After all, al-Sadat is a professional, it not an artist, in politics. He is very well aware of the political limitations of an Israeli president, and so he did not invite him for the purpose of political talks. It may be that the article in the weekly AL-SIYASAH about Navon's chances of being prime minister and his influence over the Israelis of eastern origin, who make up 60 percent of the Israeli population, exposes one of al-Sadat's motives. Throughout the years, especially during the war waged by the media, the Egyptians believed that it would be easier for them to find a common language with the Israelis of eastern origin, more than with the ruling Ashkenazi class. And I am convinced that Navon won over his listeners' with his colorful speech and his images that appeal to any oriental soul, more than the dozens of clever moralizing speeches Begin made on his official visits to Egypt. There is a double long-term political investment here by al-Sadat, not only against the ethnic background and a gamble on Navon's personal future, but also on the assumption that Navon--whose views are well known to him--will have a substantial personal influence on the alignment government.

[TA291707] All the signs indicate that al-Sadat has decided to take a deep breath and wait, not only until after the U.S. election, or until the new president gets into the swing of things during the first quarter of 1981, but also until the Israeli regime is changed. That is why his latest interlocutors have formed the impression that he is in no hurry at the moment. During this time-out period of almost a year, he is committed to take action in three fields:

--To show his aides and the Egyptian intellectuals, who have reservations about his moves, that he has not dropped the Palestinian issue;

--To show the United States that he has not retreated from the peace initiative, in order to deepen the relations that are being formed with it and upon which not only al-Sadat, but also the Egyptian people, are pinning many (economic) hopes; and

--To eliminate Israeli public suspicions and to prepare the ground for flexibility on the part of the next government. Through his invitation to Navon and the enthusiastic reception--and it certainly is an enthusiastic official reception--he wants to make the Israeli public understand that he has accepted the State of Israel and that his quarrel and criticism involve the militant Begin government alone. He is aware of the fact that only 4 months after a new government is established in Israel, it will be time for the second stage of the evacuation of the Sinai (March 1982), and of course he wants the public to be convinced that his peace is sincere and stands firm even under the stress of the misunderstandings.

It is clear that al-Sadat had, and still has, political intentions behind all his moves, but these are legitimate and do not detract from the value of facts and events being interwoven into a "bit of history." From visit to visit, from event to event, whether a trick or not, al-Sadat's deep involvement in the peace processes is more firmly entrenched and, in my opinion, there is no going back as long as he is alive and well. But while al-Sadat is thinking of the future, about "after Begin," pinning his hopes on Israel's next government, one can hardly say that Israel, for its part, is giving any thought at all to the period after al-Sadat. Israel could have secured Egypt's involvement in peace even more firmly, even after the al-Sadat era, by advancing the autonomy and striving for an agreement. Those people in Egypt today who are influential skeptics may be its leaders tomorrow.

But who in Israel lifts his eyes higher than the turgid swamp of mutual slander and the rest of the nonsense in which the heads of state are currently occupied?

CSO: 4805

'HA'ARETZ' COMMENTATOR ON KING HUSAYN'S ROLE, ACTIONS

TA141657 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Oct 80 p 11

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Professional 'Survivor'"]

[Text] The Israeli Government has been performing a strange trick: First it blows the alarm and only later asks itself why it did so. As if Israelis' nerves were not sufficiently strained, the government's official spokesmen time and again speak about "the gravity of the situation" in the wake of the Iran-Iraq war and King Husayn's involvement in the war alongside Iraq. The prime minister has declared that King Husayn has not acted wisely. The transportation minister--who in his times of leisure, after dealing with roads and airports, serves as an amateur defense minister--has cautioned that Husayn is "playing with fire." Minister Sharon has already reached the conclusion that the "Jordanian option" is dead. The general scenario portrayed by the government is that Iraq will win an all-out victory over Iran and this newly-born giant together with Jordan will create an unprecedented danger on the eastern front.

In my opinion, such a scenario is exaggerated and unfounded. An "all-out" Iraqi victory is altogether impossible. At best, Iraq will hold onto the disputed strip of land until the Iranians redeploy their forces and launch a counterattack. Even if a cease-fire is achieved the border dispute will require both sides to maintain forces on their joint border, far from Israel--thank God.

Our experience in upheavals in this region should have made us realize that no conflict or alliance lasts in the Arab world. Not long ago we were concerned about the creation of a Syrian-Jordanian front. Israeli officials said Syrian-Jordanian preparations were under way to launch a joint military action. This view also did not prevail for long. In fact, the danger of the eastern front faded away dramatically in spite of the macabre prophesies. Therefore, we should not be overly excited now because of the new "romance" between Jordan and Iraq. Husayn is much wiser than what we think.

Intrigue and warmongering have never been King Husayn's most outstanding qualities. His outstanding feature is his ability to survive. Husayn has turned his personal survival into his exclusive profession and occupation. People analyzing his moves, decisions, alliances and seasonal disputes will find out that they all stem from this quality. It may be said that his successful survival is impressive--he has been sitting on the royal throne for 28 years. He has

certainly not broken Dr Yosef Burg's record for state service. However, he has certainly broken the record of leaders in the Middle East and the entire world. There have been 11 unsuccessful attempts to assassinate him and cemeteries in the Middle East are full of people who said Husayn did not stand a chance of holding out.

In a kingdom lacking oil and natural resources, where a large section of the population is of Palestinian extraction and aspires to national independence, where 60 percent of the state budget comes from external sources, the king has successfully managed to keep his head above water. He has never been exceedingly involved in disputes or friendships. Because of our arrogance we tend to ridicule him for joining the wrong war in 1967 and staying out of the war where he could have won in 1973 and maneuvering himself out of the Camp David accord. All these descriptions are not accurate and it is a shame that we do believe them and make light of a possible future ally.

Husayn got carried into the Six-Day War by the Egyptian Army commander in the West Bank who ordered the opening of fire without consulting the Jordanian monarch. In 1973 the Egyptians and the Syrians did not tell him about the secret war plans and it was already too late to join the war when it emerged that Israel was in distress. He was not invited to Camp David not because he did not want to attend but because al-Sadat did not want him there. However, except for these "accidents"--which were not exactly slips on the part of Husayn--the king acts as a professional "juggler" simultaneously keeping several balls in the air.

He made exaggerated statements against Israel but was not (as published) the first Arab leader to hold direct talks with it. During his period of great tension with Syria in 1960 (the Syrians planted a time bomb that exploded during the cabinet session) he had a direct meeting with Israel and begged Israel not to use his distress in order to attack him. During his conflict with the Palestinians in 1970 he again asked Israel to consider his situation. Long before al-Sadat arrived in Jerusalem (Husayn initially welcomed this move and later withdrew his support when it emerged that al-Sadat did not intend to let him join it) he maintained a de facto and peaceful modus vivendi with Israel: cooperation by means of the open bridges, preventing terrorist actions from Jordanian territory and funneling many millions of dollars to the West Bank to pay salaries and provide budgets.

[TA141725] As a professional "survivor" Husayn changes alliances and loyalties in the Arab world at the same rate he changes his shirts, according to his needs. His changes are dictated, as already said, by his chances for surviving. When the Syrians sent two MIG's to attack his private plane and threatened to invade his country he did not hesitate to ask for U.S. aid and Israeli support. However, when he saw that Israel was also sharing its cake with Egypt he turned to Syria. When the United States did not give him "Hawk" missiles, Husayn did not hesitate in going to Moscow and creating the impression that he was on the brink of changing allegiances. Yet, he did not purchase a SAM missile system as he had pledged to do. He is a very capable acrobat but he is not a clown. He is for the PLO but on the condition that they do not live within his boundaries. He is for a

Palestinian State as long as such a state does not exist. As long as he keeps out of practical negotiations he does not lower what he demands from the PLO and al-Sadat. He speaks about peace but flirts with the rejectionist states, maybe because he has not yet made up his mind about what will better serve his survival--either retrieving the West Bank or leaving the situation unchanged.

Husayn is referred to as a man playing with fire. The U.S. State Department is of the opinion that he is undergoing a difficult psychological problem stemming from his involvement in a maze with no logical way out. Respected journalists who met him are surprised to learn that Husayn aspires to become the leader of the Arab world. The truth is that Husayn takes an interest only in himself. Therefore, he is very cautious. He never goes to the very end and he is very good on turning his back on alliances. However, there is a certain method in his actions: He wants to keep his pro-Western link without severing his ties with the Arab "mainstream" which is currently led by the rejectionist states. He has held close relations with Saudi Arabia, then with Egypt, later with Syria and Iraq. The latter relationship was initiated by Iraq, both against Syria and in order to guarantee a "land lift" (in the wake of the possible blockade of Basra) in the wake of the military operation it recently planned. In exchange, Jordan enjoys Iraqi financial aid. In his own way, Husayn believes that he is not entirely acting against U.S. interests by maintaining his relations with Iraq, and it is not at all certain that he is mistaken.

The assumption that these relations will develop into a new front against Israel is not likely. Trust Husayn, it will not even occur to him to open the gates of his country to Iraqi Army troops. By the same token, I would not rush to dismiss the "Jordanian option." A leader whose main occupation is to survive has all the alternatives open before him. This is the secret of Husayn's strength.

CSO: 4805

OPPOSITION TO ANNEXATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS SCORED

Yadin Calls for Governmental Stand

TA230630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 80

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin wants the government to take a stand against a parliamentary bill to annex the Golan Heights. Yadin told ISRAEL RADIO that the executive of his Democratic Party will meet today and is expected to adopt its own decision opposing such a bill. Yadin says it is inconceivable that the Knesset would pass a bill which would close the option of negotiation with Syria and make it impossible, should the time come, for a withdrawal of even 200 metres on the Golan Heights.

The American ambassador in Israel, Samuel Lewis, has expressed to Prime Minister Begin his government's concern over the intention of passing a law to annex the Golan Heights. The American concern was expressed at a meeting between the prime minister and the ambassador. Lewis was told by Washington to clarify to Israel that the U.S. views the proposed Golan law with grave concern. The American Government believes the proposed law is far more serious than the Jerusalem law; this because Jerusalem was in actual fact united in 1967, while in the case of the Golan its sovereignty is clearly recognized and therefore such a law would be in direct conflict with UN Resolution 242.

Our reporter has learned that the prime minister clarified to the ambassador that the Israeli Government has not intervened in parliamentary process in the Knesset. Official circles told our reporter that they did not believe the proposed law would be brought before the Knesset. They said the prime minister and the cabinet would find a way to convince the Knesset members to express their position and their support for the Golan in a way other than a law.

Mapam Party Voices Disapproval

TA291307 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Oct 80 p 1

[Report: "Mapam Will Regard Support for the Annexation of the Golan as a Violation of the Alinement Platform"]

[Text] During clarifications made yesterday by the Mapam Knesset faction, with the participation of the three party secretaries, it was decided to demand that

the Labor Party adhere to the alinement platform which supports territorial compromise with each of the neighboring countries. Any legislative initiative--to which members of the Labor Party are partners--changing the political situation in the Golan Heights will be regarded as a breach of the alinement platform.

Mapam demands that urgent clarifications be made on this issue in the supreme institutions common to the two alinement parties.

In order to avoid a situation in which we would be faced with parliamentary faults accompli in the Knesset, the Mapam faction decided to demand that the clarifications be made within the next few days.

The announcement issued yesterday by Mapam regarding the opposition to the annexation of the Golan Heights says that "in order to contain any legislative initiative for the annexation of the Golan Heights--something that contradicts the political interests of the State of Israel and of the Golan Heights settlements--Mapam put forward an urgent motion for the Knesset agenda. The Knesset executive did not approve that motion.

"During the alinement Knesset faction executive's clarifications, the Labor Party demanded that no normal motion for the agenda be submitted on this issue until the end of the clarifications in the Labor Party's institutions. A normal motion, as is well known, requires the approval of all the alinement factions."

CSO: 4805

IMPROVEMENT OF ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS SOUGHT

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Sep 80 p 5

[Article by Aluf Hareven: "Israeli Arabs as a Jewish Problem"]

[Text] One in every six Israeli citizens is an Arab; that means he belongs to a non-Jewish minority in a Jewish state, which in its declaration of independence declared the principle of equality of rights for every citizen. By the year 2000, there will be more than one million Arab citizens of Israel. Even today, with their number at 600,000 about 70 percent have been born after the establishment of the state, meaning that those Arabs are Israeli citizens by birth. The question regarding the mutual relations between Jews and Arabs should thus be one of the critical questions for the second generation of the country.

In relations between the majority and the minority, who is it that determines the forms of relations? Certainly these relations are determined in the manner of reciprocal relations, of interaction; but we can assume that the majority, since it is the decisive factor in the country, has more power than the minority to shape the forms of this relationship, since the minority does not have the power to determine. Therefore, it is important that the Jewish majority try to focus on the components of its attitude toward the non-Jewish minority; only when we are informed of these factors will we be able to be clear regarding ourselves, as to whether we are satisfied with the situation or whether there is room for change.

In a survey commissioned by the Van Leer Institute on the attitude of the Jewish majority towards the non-Jewish minority, and which was directed by Mina Tsemakh, the following discoveries are prominent:

The Jewish majority in Israel is not unambiguous in its attitude toward Israeli Arabs. There are three principal groups: a minority of Jews whose attitude toward Israeli Arabs is essentially negative; a minority of Jews whose attitude is essentially positive; and between them a group comprising the majority of Jews in Israel, whose attitude toward Israeli Arabs is not clear cut (not stereotypical, but a mixture of both positive and negative positions.)

The group which attributes only negative qualities to the Arabs comprises about 14 percent of the respondents. Most prominent in this group are those Jews who come from Arab countries, age 18 to 22 years, who vote for Likud and the NRP (although of course not all belonging to these categories are so negative in their attitudes toward Israeli Arabs). This group is a minority; in contrast, 84 percent of the Jewish community hold positive or mixed attitudes toward Israeli Arabs.

The group which attributes only positive qualities to the Arabs comprises 13 percent of the respondents. This group, too, is a minority, and prominent in it are those people who come from western countries, or the children of westerners, having a high level of education, and living in cities where there is an Arab population.

The largest group, which comprises 70 percent of Israeli Jews, is that which has mixed attitudes, i.e. they attribute to Israeli Arabs positive qualities (e.g. industry, devotion to family) and negative qualities (e.g. violence).

The compositeness of positions of the Jewish public is testified to by several divisions, such as:

The "dirty" Arab--36 percent; "clean" or "neither clean nor dirty"--64 percent. The Arab is "devoted to his family"--69 percent; "not devoted"--8 percent (the remainder is between the poles). Human life is important to them--42 percent; is not important--33 percent. Most Israeli Arabs engage in espionage--15 percent; only an isolated few engage in espionage--60 percent. Most Israeli Arabs are happy when the country suffers harm--53 percent; other opinions--47 percent. Most Israeli Arabs are torn between loyalty to the country and loyalty to their people--45 percent; other opinions--55 percent.

The whole survey exposes internal tensions in the positions of the Jewish public. So for example the tension between the principled position of 90 percent of those interviewed regarding the necessity of displaying tolerance to minority groups, whichever they are, and the readiness of only 40 percent to apply full equality of rights to the Israeli Arab minority, while the principal claim of those opposed to the application of full equality of rights is based on considerations of security.

In contrast to these tensions, one of the most encouraging discoveries was the readiness for social contacts with Israeli Arabs. About 40 percent are ready to live in the same building with Arabs; more than half of the respondents are ready for social contacts with Arabs in the cities in which they live; about 60 percent are ready to work on the same job. This data testifies to the fact that a substantial segment of the Jewish public is not racist in its attitude toward Israeli Arabs; it does not reserve itself from such contacts with them, in that manner that whites relate to blacks in South Africa. On the contrary, the high degree of readiness for close social contact shows the potential for excellent relations which has not been realized. This rate is important because of studies made of Israeli Arabs which also show a high rate of interest in social contacts with Jews, although the rate of credibility regarding Jews and readiness for such relations is low among Arabs.

The practical conclusions which stem from this study are in three areas; first and foremost, the impression that most Israeli Jews have a negative attitude toward Israeli Arabs is false. The rate of Jews in Israel whose attitude toward Arab citizens of the country is purely racist is only 15 percent, which is about 3 out of every 20 Jews. All those to whom Israel is dear as both a Jewish state which is concerned for the rights of its minorities, as well as a democratic country whose citizens enjoy equal rights will be concerned to define himself outside of that group, as well as to isolate it.

Secondly, there are in the positions of the Jewish majority of Israel bases which are positive, and upon which can be built with the goal of limiting negative attitudes, and of improving the general attitude toward Arab citizens of Israel. This activity is especially important in the area of education. As of today, there is no component in the education of Jewish students which teaches them how to relate to one sixth of the citizens of Israel who are not Jewish. It is possible that the absence of such a program is one of the factors in the fact that particularly among Jewish youth there is a high rate of negative attitude toward Israeli Arabs, as compared to many adult groups.

Thirdly, there is enough data in this survey to strengthen the hope of developing in Israel relations between the majority and minority based on the mutual respect of civil rights, even when there is a difference of opinion as to the way to solve political problems. But such a development will not occur by itself, and the resolution to move to it must first be a resolution of the Jewish majority, for the image of the Arab minority which we see is to a great extent a reflection of the image which we project of ourselves to them. To the extent, that we hold a negative view of them (as "dirty" or "spies") so we will strengthen their negative view of us; and to the extent that we strengthen positive bases which already exist among part of the Jewish majority, we will be able to strengthen the Israeli Arabs' view of themselves as citizens of the country.

This is certainly no easy task, and the difficulties in settling the Israeli-Arab dispute will not make it any easier. But if we do not, as soon as possible, turn to the task of clarifying our attitudes toward the non-Jewish minority, then even if we do settle the external Arab-Israeli dispute, we will still have an internal dispute which will be both painful and debilitating. There is within the Jewish majority a sufficient basis for the growth of positive attitudes between us and the Arab minority. What is lacking in the meantime is a policy which is ready to face up to the problem. It is lacking in the present government and was lacking in its predecessors, and is still lacking in the opposition which will someday replace the present government.

7075

CSO: 4805

'HIGH-RANKING' OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON FRG MIDEAST POLICY

LD282158 Hamburg DPA in German 1749 GMT 28 Oct 80

[Report on interview with unidentified Israeli official by DPA on 28 Oct 80, place not given]

[Text] Jerusalem, 28 Oct (DPA)--It is the official view in Jerusalem that the Federal Government, like other West European countries, allows itself to be "blackmailed" by the Arab oil states and disregards the sympathies felt by Germans for Israel. This view was expressed in a DPA conversation today by a high-ranking Israel Government official who did not want his name published.

He criticized the Mideast policy of the European community, and specifically the Federal Republic. He said: "Even leaving aside motives and only looking at results, I am bound to say that Germany has so far not achieved anything positive in this respect. The West Europeans as a whole have failed to make the Arabs understand that they must sit round the table with Israel if they really want peace."

The Federal Government, he added, "understandably" will not admit that, for the sake of its energy supplies, it is looking to the Arabs and is therefore open to blackmail. With this policy Bonn disregards the fact that the Germans sympathize with Israel for three reasons: "First, the Germans know that Israel is a democratic state. Second, they feel that Israel is having to pay for the mistakes of western politicians and is being thrown to the dogs for the sake of good relations with the Arabs. Third, the Germans well remember that the Jews had to pay the highest price in World War II."

Bonn, 28 Oct (DPA)--In Bonn's view, the Israel statement ignores the facts. A Bonn foreign office spokesman said today that the federal government is not taking sides and is not pursuing a policy at the expense of Israel. Nor are its efforts to secure peace in the Middle East motivated by its energy supply interests.

The spokesman said that the federal government supported the decisions taken by the EC summit meeting in Venice for the very reason that it wants to support the peace process.

Bonn is making every effort in bilateral contacts to get the major groups, that in Israel, Egypt and the Arab League, to move closer. The federal government's efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East are in the interests of Israel. The spokesman referred in this connection to the visit which Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir is due to pay to Bonn this year.

'DIVERGENCES' BETWEEN DANISH-ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS REVEALED

LD290929 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Oct 80 part 1 p 5

[Dispatch by Hogens Kofod-Hansen: "Kjeld Olesen Did Not Convince Begin"]

[Text] Jerusalem--Israel's concern over the EEC's position on the Middle East, especially on the Palestine problem, was a major topic at the meeting yesterday between Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Kjeld Olesen. Begin found that the nine are motivated by oil and other short-term economic interests in the Arab countries to adopt a position which hurts Israel and favors Yasir 'Arafat's PLO.

Kjeld Olesen replied that the so-called Middle East initiative from the EEC Venice summit in June is not directed against Israel, is not intended to be an alternative to the Camp David peace process between Israel, Egypt and the United States and does not go further in support of the PLO than earlier EEC statements. He said that in his opinion it is only a catalyst, a sounding and an analysis, which is intended to make a contribution to the continuation of the peace process.

Begin did not let himself be convinced. On the contrary he stressed that the EEC by accepting the PLO as the negotiator for the Palestinians and by talking of Palestinian self-determination has gone further than before and much further than the Camp David agreements, which do not mention the PLO and only speak of self-government, which is less than self-determination. The Prime Minister has said several times in recent weeks that this European position has contributed to anti-Israeli feeling which could have been a factor in the creation of new anti-Semitic trends in Europe.

The question has occupied Israelis a lot in recent weeks. Both official circles and the general public have listened with great attention to what Kjeld Olesen has had to say, for he is the first EEC foreign minister to visit the country since the controversial statement from the Venice summit. There is great satisfaction that several times during the visit, among other things in connection with the resumption of the Euro-Arab dialogue, he has said, "Our feelings toward Israel are unchanged."

But the majority of Israelis are afraid that the moderate Danish interpretation of the EEC initiative is not representative of what all the nine and especially the larger and stronger members of the community really intend. Many Israelis are also afraid of the contents of the new Middle East declaration that will come from the next EEC summit in December, when the results of Council of Ministers Chairman Gaston Thorn's soundings in the Middle East have been analyzed.

After the meeting with Begin and after talks later in the day with the Israeli Labor Party leader, Kjeld Olesen has now wound up 2 days of intensive political discussions on the situation in the Middle East and relations between Israel and the Arabs. Without this in any way affecting the close friendship between Denmark and the Jewish state, the conclusion is that as expected there are certain divergences between the parties' views, not only between the governments but also over a smaller statement [as published] between Kjeld Olesen and his friends from the Israeli Labor Party.

Apart from the disagreement on the Jerusalem law and the heralded law on the Golan Heights it has been said that there are differing views on the PLO. It has given rise to Israeli satisfaction that Kjeld Olesen has said that Denmark cannot recognize the PLO, partly because only states are recognized, partly because of the PLO's insistence that Israel must be destroyed. But none of the Israeli parties think that the PLO should be included in the negotiations as the representatives of the Palestinians. Neither of them has answered Kjeld Olesen's question: "Who is then going to represent the Palestinians?"

Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres told his Danish guest yesterday that when his party forms a government again--this is expected to be next year--it would go in for a territorial compromiser, that is to say the clearing of a large part of the West Bank and Gaza with a drawing of borders only dependent on security considerations. It would not agree to the surrendering of East Jerusalem, the return of the Golan Heights to the Syrian military, or the establishment of a Palestinian state there, which would inevitably fall under the control of the PLO.

"There is already one Palestinian state in Jordan. This must be enough. The solution will therefore have to be found with Jordan, when negotiations take place," Peres said. These ideas will be included in a newly formulated party program to be approved in December as the foundation for the Labor Party campaign for the next election in Israel in 1981. An important point in this program is that the Labor Party does not want a Jewish state with a large number of Arabs as its citizens, who may form a majority at some point in the future. For this reason the Labor Party is ready to surrender a large part of the occupied areas.

After the political problems the official visit's brighter sides follow today: A striking public manifestation of Danish-Israeli friendship. This will take place after a visit to the Denmark school in Jerusalem with the dedication of a new forest, planted in Queen Margrethe's name with funds collected by Danes and Israelis and this evening with a large thanksgiving party in memory of the saving of Danish Jews in October 1943. It will take place symbolically in the Beth Ha'am House (the house of the people) in Jerusalem. Anti-Semitism's German overseer Adolf Eichmann received his death sentence there in 1961. Those who cheated the Hitler reich of a few thousand of its intended victims will be celebrated there tonight.

BRIEFS

CEMENT DISPUTE--The construction of the airbases in the Negev will not be adversely affected by the sanctions in the cement industry now that the Nesher Company has worked out a special arrangement on this matter. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal learned this from the cement factory management. A U.S. engineer corps source said that thus there would be no need to import cement to Israel. A few days ago it was feared that the sanctions would adversely affect the construction of the airbases and even bring it to a halt. [Text] [TA260714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Oct 80]

NEW SETTLEMENT PROBLEMS--The Gush Enunim Settlement Movement is not succeeding in enlisting a nucleus of settlers for the new settlement of Mikhmarsh, near Ma'ale Adummim, the establishment of which has been recently authorized. This was learned by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh. Our correspondent notes that several new settlements in Judaea are now encountering manpower shortage problems. New settlers prefer to join the established settlements. Nevertheless, a nucleus of the Ihud Haqla'i Movement will be set up next week in Vered Yeriho, south of Jericho. [Text] [TA 290638 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Oct 80]

KNESSET 'CONCERN' OVER AUTONOMY DOCUMENT--Today Prime Minister Begin presented the latest Israeli document submitted to the United States on the autonomy issue to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Our Knesset correspondent Arye Golan reports that Moshe Arens, Yosef Rom, Mikha'el Deqel and Hayim Druckman expressed concern at the clause in the Israeli document pledging that the Autonomy Administrative Council will participate in decision-making on matters of land and water in the territories. According to these Knesset members this clause jeopardizes the Israeli settlement in Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister said that the Israeli document does not contain any concessions. On a different issue Prime Minister Begin said that President Navon's visit to Egypt is a success story and makes a great contribution to the strengthening of relations between the two states. [Text] [TA291151 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Oct 80]

IMMIGRATION DATA--A drastic decline in the number of immigrants arriving in Israel in 1980 compared with their number in 1979 emerges from the latest immigration report compiled by the Jewish agency Aliyah and Absorption Department. A rise of 17 percent was only registered in the number of immigrants arriving from Romania. From January to September 1980 there was a decline of 48 percent

in the number of immigrants from the Soviet Union, 64 percent in the number of immigrants from South Africa and 26 percent in the number of immigrants from Argentina. Immigration from France declined by 16 percent and from the United States by 25 percent compared to 1979. [TA250643 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Oct 80 p 3 TA]

LIBERAL FACTION CHAIRMAN--MK Menahem Savidor was elected this afternoon as chairman of the Liberal Faction in the Likud. [TA301051 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Oct 80 TA]

MECCA PILGRIMAGE--This year 4,700 Muslims from Israel made the pilgrimage to Mecca. Our correspondent Arye Gus comments that 10 of the pilgrims from Israel and the territories died while on their way and several of them were buried in the holy city. [Text] [TA301051 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Oct 80 TA]

EXTERNAL DEBTS--In the first half of 1980, a \$1.76 billion deficit was recorded in Israel's goods and services account, similar to the deficit in the parallel period last year, though 16 percent less than in the second half of 1979. In the first half of 1980, Israel imported goods and services worth \$6.6 billion, an increase of 2 percent over the second half of 1979. Direct defense imports in the first half of the year totalled \$632 million, or 7 percent more than the parallel period last year. In the first 6 months of 1980, exports of goods and services totalled \$2.86 billion, an increase of 29 percent as compared with the parallel period last year. The country's external debts (not including stocks and debentures held by foreigners) stood at \$20.1 billion at the end of June 1980. [TA270945 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Oct 80 p 3 TA]

NEW SETTLEMENT IN GOLAN--The World Zionist Organization has begun building a new settlement on the Central Golan Heights near the village Juwayzah. Several bulldozers are about to complete clearing the ground, eyewitnesses said. Four other settlements will be established along the border between the West Bank and pre-1967 Israel, but a Jewish agency source said they will be located on the western side of the green line. The settlement near Juwayzah is one of three new settlements the government decided a year ago to establish on the Golan Heights. Work on the second, near (Yaqusa), in the southern sector of the Golan is still under way. However, construction of the third, near Qawlah has been postponed until the government decides on the kind of settlement it will be. [Text] [TA300938 Jerusalem POST in English 30 Oct 80 p 2]

CSO: 4820

PLO INVITES POPE TO VISIT COUNTRY

London 8 DAYS in English 4 Oct 80 p 28

[Text] POPE John Paul II has been invited to visit Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and to 'take the lead in a worldwide movement to help the Palestinians return to their homeland'. The invitation, from PLO leader Yasser Arafat, was contained in a confidential message delivered to the Vatican on 17 September by Hafif Safyeh, Arafat's personal envoy.

The message, which was revealed exclusively to 8 Days by diplomatic sources in Rome, was reportedly given considerable consideration by the Pope, who is said to have told Safyeh that 'Palestine, the Palestinians and Jerusalem are at the centre of all our preoccupations'.

Safyeh's Rome visit highlights the increasing interest being taken by the Vatican in the Middle East conflict. King Hussein of Jordan visited the Pope in early September and he was followed by Egyptian Vice President Hosni Mubarak. The Egyptian secured from the Pope a clear commitment to the defence of Jerusalem's 'multinational status' and of the Palestinians' 'legitimate national rights'. Mubarak is thought to have sought the Vatican's backing for Camp David.

When Pope John Paul II came to office,

there were Israeli hopes of a change in the Vatican's 'understanding' of the Arab and Palestinian situation, which was first declared by Pope Paul VI. Such hopes increased with the initial acceptance by the Vatican of Menachem Begin's invitation to the Pope to visit Israel. On 30 June however, the Vatican issued a statement to all UN members, strongly warning against any unilateral change in the status of Jerusalem. The subsequent 'annexation' of the city angered the Vatican — and nothing more has been heard of the proposed trip to Israel.

CSO: 4820

BEIRUT'S HOTEL SITUATION EXAMINED

London 8 DAYS in English 4 Oct 80 pp 19-20

[Article by Earleen Tatro]

[Text]

THE MANAGER of Beirut's Cadmos Hotel was exuberant as he bounded across the deserted rooftop solarium. 'Look, look — what a nice view,' he cried, pointing to the sparkling blue waters of the Mediterranean. 'In the old days we used to have 50 tourists up here sunning themselves.'

He marched to the other side of the roof, and his mood changed as he pointed to the smoke-blackened skeletons of the luxury hotels which formed the heart of Beirut's Gold Coast in pre-war days. Of the dozen or more big hotels which did a thriving business in the area, only the Cadmos is still open. Structurally intact, with only a few bullet holes here and there, it stands near the western edge of the no-man's land which divides predominantly Christian East Beirut from predominantly Muslim West Beirut.

In the old days, before the 1975-76 civil war, the 120-room Cadmos was booked all year round by sun-seeking Europeans and wealthy Arabs. Today it rents rooms for \$6.50 a day to the girls who work in the all-night bars on nearby Phoenicia Street.

Despite the civil war, despite the continuing violence which can still erupt in street battles anywhere, any time, despite the low volume of business, many Beirut hotels stay open. Hotel operators say they have little choice. If they close their doors, squatters will move in or mortgages will be foreclosed or leases terminated and million-dollar investments lost. Some say, with stubborn pride, that it's a point of honour to keep their premises open, and,

besides, they have money-making hotels in other countries or real estate in Lebanon or some other form of income.

The National Tourism council says that of the 100 three-and four-star hotels in Beirut before the war, 62 are still open.

The average occupancy rate for the first five months of 1980 was 25.3 per cent, according to the council. Hotel executives say an occupancy rate of 55 per cent is needed to break even in the Middle East. In 1974 the average occupancy rate for Beirut hotels was 69.3 per cent. The January to May period this year showed an increase of 4.2 per cent over the same period last year, and 2.5 per cent above the monthly average for all of 1979.

With fewer clients, now mostly businessmen making short trips to the country, the hotels are trying other ways of making money. 'We push our beach operation,' said Nizz Alouf, manager of the Riviera Hotel, which sells six-month memberships for its private beach at \$220. This season the operation has grossed about \$110,000. The occupancy rate at the Riviera, where a double room costs \$59, is about 15-18 per cent. 'It's lousy — that's the least I can say,' said Alouf, whose family owns the Riviera, a small hotel in Baalbeck which catered to tourists in the days when Lebanon had them, and the New Omayyad Hotel in Damascus.

The 125-room Riviera, located in a relatively calm section of West Beirut, is now 'on the edge of breaking even, for the first time since the war' Alouf said.

The Hotel St Georges, the most opulent hotel in pre-war days, sits next to the so-called green line which divides East and West Beirut. Today the St Georges is a study in surrealism: waiters in red jackets carry icy drinks to deeply tanned, bikini-clad Lebanese ladies lounging around a swimming pool overlooking a yacht basin full of pleasure boats. Looming above this idyllic scene is the hotel itself — a charred hulk of stone with boarded-up windows and no prospects of reopening.

The 140-room Beirut Commodore, in West Beirut's Hamra business district, is one of the success stories by current standards. It has an occupancy rate of 60-65 per cent, mostly businessmen who stay two or three nights. Before the war the Commodore boasted an occupancy rate of 100 per cent.

The Summerland Hotel promotes its restaurants and occasional outdoor musical extravaganzas featuring such entertainers as the American singer Gloria Gaynor. And the Bristol hosts a big reception or wedding party nearly every week. Although Beirut residents tend to stay home more at night than they did before the war, some hotels are luring them to cocktail lounges with nightly entertainment.

'I hired a very loud musician for very loud people — because the people in this town like loud things,' one hotel owner said. The Cadmos started offering monthly rates this year and instituted a variety of bargain prices. 'Our normal price is £150 (\$360) but very seldom is there anyone in the hotel paying that,' manager Adel Rubeiz said.

For less than \$9 a night, Middle East Airlines can rent a room at the Cadmos for transit passengers. Most transit passengers stay at the Beau Rivage and International hotels in the less desolate section further west, but those who come in on flights from poorer nations such as Sudan may end up at the Cadmos.

CSO: 4820

COUNTRY'S PORT ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 4 Oct 80 pp 14-16

[Text] During the seventies, port activities on the Mediterranean and Gulf shores increased substantially as ports and ship fleets expanded to serve the growing demands of the import-export trade between the Middle East and the rest of the world.

During the first half of the decade, Lebanon, thanks to its port of Beirut, became the leading center of port activities in the area. Its geographical location, its facilities and numerous technical advantages attracted an important part of the export-import trade.

The Beirut Port

The port of Beirut is comprised of 3 fully operational berths, one still under construction, 11 piers, 53 open air storage surface of 192,800 square meters, and 30 covered warehouses of 170,000 sq.m., in addition to a number of administrative and maintenance buildings. Its history as a naval trade center is more than a century old and has always derived its importance from its location between the ports of southeast Europe and the Arab countries.

The port is 110 kms away from Damascus, 300kms from Amman, 1,000 kms from Baghdad, 1,800 kms from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and 2,000 kms from Tehran. Moreover, it is linked to Syria, Turkey and Iraq by more than 7,900 kms of railroads.

Between 1970 and 1975, the number of international ports which dealt with the Port of Beirut increased from 145 to 293. In 1970, 3,128 ships unloaded 2,290,000 tons of merchandise in 1970 and this figure rose to 3,612 ships and 3,412,000 tons of merchandise in 1974. An average of 28 per cent of the total merchandise passed in transit towards Iraq (56% of the transit merchandise in 1975), Saudi Arabia (22%), Jordan (6%), Iran (5%), Kuwait (5%) and Syria (4%).

The Lebanese civil war of 1975-1976 slashed down its fast growing activities. In 1975, only 2,859 ships came to Beirut to unload 2,434,000 tons of merchandise, 753 ships and 978,000 tons less than in 1974.

In 1976, the port was completely paralyzed and this shifted the activities to the Syrian and Gulf ports. The average 28 per cent of merchandise which transited through Lebanon in 1974 dropped to a mere 11 per cent after the war.

The port of Beirut became operational again at the end of the 1975-1976 war. However, its role as the major port of the region was affected by recurrent incidents in the country and the expansion of the Syrian and Gulf ports. Its best year since the war has been 1977, when the country enjoyed relative security; 2,782 ships unloaded 2,047,000 tons of merchandise. But in the following year when new troubles erupted, these figures decreased to 1,782 ships and 1,664,000 tons of goods. The figures climbed back again in 1979 to 2,253 ships and 2,374,000 tons.

Figures and statistics concerning transit trade show that a substantial part of activities has moved to other ports. At present, the port of Beirut mainly serves the needs of Lebanon.

(These figures do not take into account the activities of the fifth berth of the port which is completely under the control of the Phalangist Party. More and more merchandise is being unloaded at this berth because of lower duties and no customs. Ed)

The Port of Tripoli

The port of the second main city of the country is comprised of a 20,000 sq.m.-large and 8 meter-deep basin, 6 piers, 65,000 sq.m. of warehouses and 78,000 sq.m. of open air storage surface. It was established in 1958 and during the 1975-76 events tried to replace, within its capacities, the port of Beirut.

In 1975, 849,000 tons were loaded and unloaded at this port, compared to 95,000 tons in 1959. But in 1976, operations dropped to 50,000 tons.

A plan was drawn up in 1974 by a British firm, for the expansion of the port of Tripoli. The plan provided for building a new basin 11m.-deep and 9,000 sq.m.-large, deepening the first basin by 3 meters and building new piers and storage surfaces (about 350,000 sq.m). The implementation of this project still awaits the settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

The Ports of Jounieh and Saïda

The ports of Jounieh and Saïda were considered as secondary compared to those of Tripoli and Beirut. Before the war, their activities were limited to tourist and fishing purposes. The war boosted their activities and small and middle-size ships were able to load and unload merchandise there.

In 1976, 1,622 ships anchored at the port of Jounieh and 170 in Saïda. In 1977, these figures dropped respectively to 450 and 80. They increased again in 1978 to 500 and 252 and dropped again in 1979 to 480 and 105. No expansion projects are planned for these ports yet.

Illegal Port Activities

The war and its consequences in Lebanon have led to the establishment of more than 18 illegal "ports" in Lebanon, all along the coast from Tripoli to Tyre.

In addition to their activities, frauds were also committed in a number of institutions dealing with the ports, resulting in a sharp decrease in the State's income from port activities.

In a report on the situation, the Paris-based weekly magazine AL NAHAR ARAB & INTERNATIONAL said that illegal activities and frauds were carried out in three different manners:

- 1) Bribery of officials to avoid paying customs on imported goods. The magazine quoted the director general of the Customs Department as saying that the situation was "scandalous" and could, if it continued, lead to "the bankruptcy of the Treasury."
- 2) Importing merchandise into the port as if it were in transit and then smuggle it into Lebanon by transporting it aboard another ship to a neighbouring illegal harbour.
- 3) The small illegal ports which charge no customs and reduced service duties.

The Lebanese Commercial Fleet

The magazine went on to say that the Lebanese commercial fleet is comprised of 5,430 ships which carry 12.1 per cent of the merchandise that reaches Beirut or transits by Beirut. The report did not say, however, whether all these ships are Lebanese or registered in Lebanon.

The report said that the commercial fleet was organized in the years 1968 and 1969 when a group of 7 shipowners formed an association the goal of which was to improve and develop the Lebanese commercial fleet. It was an independent, private initiative which sought to compensate for the absence of any state policy. The association kept growing and includes 95 shipowners with a total of 219 ships.

In conclusion, the report said that the State should speed up the development and expansion of its ports, especially the 4th and 5th berths of the Beirut port. It is also suggested that in order to avoid the congestion from which the Beirut port suffered in the years preceding the war, the other ports of the country be developed and the illegal ports placed under the control of the state with the purpose of having each harbour specialize in handling specific types of cargos. It also called for establishing a department to supervise activities besides the semi-private Port Authority.

CSO: 4820

MUSLIM RELIGION MISUSED TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE

Casablanca LIBERATION in French 19 Sep 80 p 3

[Editorial: "Religiosity and Imposture"]

[Text] Religious consciences in the Moslem world have been subjected to a terrible ordeal. Of course, such a thing is not a recent phenomenon. Every Moslem wishing to live in conformity with the Islamic ideal of justice, fraternity and tolerance has been confronted by the harsh realities of the evolution of Moslem society in which the monopolizing of wealth and the concentrating of privileges are all the more visible because the people have not ceased living with injustice and poverty. The demands of a spiritual life (in the Islamic meaning of the word which is not total renunciation of the world) are, therefore, giving way to the accumulation of material goods whose perpetuation is protected by the blindest of violence.

This dichotomy between ideal and fact is a reality. To divert the people's attention, the wealthy attempt to make us believe that the problems of Moslem society do not come from the arbitrariness and exploitation of a dominant class but from I know not what renunciation of faith on the part of the humble and disinherited. Under the circumstances, it is necessary to find the guilty party and to thrash if not annihilate him. They then allege the exclusivity of belief and orthodoxy when even daily behavior conspicuously gives the lie to the attachment placed on principles. The flag of Islam is raised whenever the expression of the popular will becomes stronger and better organized. The pretext is the "threat" to ideology, while the only ideology defended is that of the dominant classes, behind the discreet veil of the defense of beliefs and values.

The partisans of defense of acquired situations and institutionalized privileges were soon unmasked, however:

--At the international level, the war in Lebanon has clearly shown that the "defenders" of the faith have not rejected any compromise with the reactionary Christian minorities whose avowed purpose is to carve up a country, annihilate its national and progressive forces and to frustrate

struggle for national liberation undertaken by a martyred people, the Palestinians. How then do we explain the fact that a Moslem army flew to the rescue of reactionary minorities, attached to exorbitant and anachronistic privileges, if there were not a consensus of a political kind between Zionism, imperialism and the forces of conservation and reaction against the establishment in Lebanon of institutions based on the democratic principle?

How do we explain the culpable silence of regimes no matter what their ideology in the face of the Tell Azzatar massacre, which involved children, women and old people who were subjected to systematic bombardment to the great satisfaction of Israel? At a time when certain individuals could have lifted their little finger to halt the invasion and massacres, they preferred the tragic denouement and the fall of the Palestinian camp.

What explanations can the so-called defenders of Islam give for this betrayal?

--At the domestic level, from the Gulf to the ocean, there are groups and individuals contriving to divert the popular struggles from their objectives by pretending to save the souls of the masses, while the latter are living in a state of deprivation because of the privileges of the former; when their lack of savoir faire and the emptiness of their doctrine find nothing more than the past to offer as hope for the future, they affect a religiosity which is nothing more than a substitute for imposture; when certain persons see an augmented conscience and determination in the masses' emancipation effort, they then unveil their true nature and do not hesitate to resort to violence and assassination to stem the mounting flood of popular aspirations to dignity, the basis of all spiritual life.

At these two levels, the defense of the Palestinian revolution and the struggle for popular emancipation, Aomar Bendjelloun will have been our messenger. His message was heard and nothing can stop its spread. His memory, therefore, can only remain alive in the hearts of true Moslems.

8143

CSO: 4400

DETAILS OF SAFI CHEMICAL COMPLEX REPORTED

Chemical, Textile, Energy Industries

Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 19 Sep 80 p 8

[Text] The Safi chemical complex is to process up to 3.2 million tons per year of dry phosphate from Youssoufia and 3.3 million tons per year of wet phosphate from Ben Guerir in the form of P_2O_5 phosphoric acid concentrated and clarified to 54 percent TSP [treble superphosphate]; MAP [monoammonium sulfophosphate]; NPK [nitrogen-phosphorous-potassium] compound fertilizers; and DAP [diammonium phosphate], as a by-product.

The complex will be made up of three large industrial facilities: Maroc-Chimie [Morocco-Chemistry]; Maroc-Phosphore I [Morocco-Phosphorous I]; and Maroc-Phosphore II located about 10 km from Safi and of a group of installations for handling and storing sulfur, ammonia, phosphoric acid, TSP and and MAP at the port of Safi.

With an overall potential for phosphoric acid production of 1.35 million tons of P_2O_5 per year, the Safi phosphorus complex will be the largest in the world.

It will be basically oriented toward the export of phosphoric acid, TSP, MAP and DAP, as a by-product, and toward the satisfaction of Morocco's needs for phosphated mixed fertilizers.

The Chemical Industry

The year 1965 marked an important stage in the establishment of the bases of a chemical industry in the province. The construction of Maroc-Chimie I was only the first phase in the regional industrialization effort which was pursued by doubling the productive capacity of Maroc-Chimie I and the placing in service in 1976 of another integrated chemical facility: Maroc-Phosphore I.

The Maroc-Chimie chemical complex is a development of world scope; it provides for the production of a whole gamut of products such as:

- phosphoric sulfuric acids,
- treble superphosphate,
- ammonium phosphate,
- diammonium phosphate,
- tripolyphosphate,
- trisodium phosphate and
- phosphoric acid.

The chemical industries which use the phosphate and pyrrhotite of Kettara as their principal raw materials have largely contributed to the utilization of important amounts of manpower and the improvement of the city's infrastructure and its economic development.

The Safi chemical-industrial complex is made up of Maroc-Chimie I, Maroc-Chimie II and Maroc-Phosphore I. Once Maroc-Phosphore II has been completed, the total investments in all these facilities (except Maroc-Chimie I) will be 2.7 billion dirhams, not including the cost of the infrastructures which were taken care of directly by the state.

In the final stage, about 4,000 direct jobs of a highly technical nature will be established. These jobs will generate several others, up and down the line: transport, port, local industry.

Subsequent to the start up of the Maroc-Chimie installations in June 1965, studies targeting the development of local processing of the phosphate were resumed in 1968 and resulted in the placing in service at the end of 1976 of an NPK fertilizer manufacturing unit, the tripling of the initial capacity of Maroc-Chimie, construction of the Maroc-Phosphore II plant and the plant for the recovery of the uranium contained in the phosphoric acid manufactured (still in the planning stage).

With completion of Maroc-Phosphore II, the Safi complex will process 6.5 million tons per year of pyrrhotite coming in equal parts from Youssoufia and Ben Guerir. In the process, it will annually consume: 1.25 million tons of sulfur, 320,000 tons of chloride and potassium sulfate.

The Safi complex will produce 1.83 billion tons of 54 percent phosphoric acid of which 400,000 tons can be transformed into PMA (monoammonium phosphate), 79,000 tons into treble superphosphate and 145,000 into NPK 14-28-14 mixed fertilizer.

The two units, Maroc-Phosphore I and II will bolster the region's industrial progress and contribute to the processing of the nation's natural resources which were exported raw for a long time.

The Textile Industry

The textile industry has experienced relative development in Safi; the Moroccan Textile Company [CCT], which was established in 1946, specializes in other plastic departments, particularly in the following sectors: polypropylene and polyethylene.

The city of Safi over the last several years has benefited from the installation of a very large spinning plant. The ASAFIL [expansion unknown] spinning plant, whose completion recently required an investment of nearly 1 billion entimes, is entirely financed by the private sector which has benefited from the advantages granted by the Investment Code.

This plant has two departments: spinning with 9,000 spindles and a shop for the dyeing of wool and synthetic fibers, which in large measure meets the needs of the domestic (national) market for spun goods.

For its part, the Moroccan Textile Company since 1969 has opted for modernization of its installations in response to developing requirements for product processing. Thus the traditional jute sack which was used for all kinds of packaging finds itself in competition with the plastic bag which is lighter, easier to handle and whose production is less subject to dependency on supplies from distant countries and variations in the prices of natural fibers.

The CCT is using the latest technique in this sector and has a battery of circular looms adapted for the weaving of polypropylene sheeting for the manufacture of over 10 million sacks annually.

The most important domestic clients are the OCE [Marketing and Export Office] for the export of potatoes and Maroc-Chimie for the export of fertilizer. The polyethylene department has an annual production of about 20 million bags of different capacities and colors. Its latest investments, its streamlined and ultra-modern installations, its articles of international quality place the CCT in the forefront of bag producers in Morocco.

Mines and Energy

The Youssoufia Phosphate Center is the most important mining operation in the province. The Moroccan Phosphates Office [OCP] employs about 4,200 workers and employees in Youssoufia who annually produce about 3.5 million tons of phosphates from three underground mines and one strip mine. The

development of the phosphate centers is being carried out within the framework of an overall OCP expansion plan which affects Youssoufia in three sectors:

--Continuation of the mechanization process to improve productivity and reduce the cost price per ton to meet increasingly aggressive competition on world markets.

--Increasing the value of most of Morocco's production by transforming it into semi-finished products through the establishment of chemical industry plants (Maroc-Chimie, Maroc-Phosphore).

--Since black phosphorous is the future of this center because of the importance of its reserves, the OCP has now prepared a vast development program for this mineral (opening of an underground mining facility, construction and outfitting of a calcination plant).

Ighoud is another mining center in the province. The extraction of barite by the COMABAR [Moroccan Barite Company] provides employment for about 400 workers and employees for an annual production of 70,000 tons which are exported through the port of Safi.

In another connection, the Moroccan Salt Company in Chemaia produces 20,000 tons per year from salt marshes (water drainage and evaporation basin). The activity of this company could be adversely affected by the start up of the large salt plant at Mohammedia.

Gypsum is a new mining resource for Safi province.

More on Phosphorous Products

Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 19 Sep 80 p 9

[Text] Phosphoric acid results from a chemical reaction between sulfuric acid and natural phosphate. The resulting mixture, composed of phosphoric acid and gypsum, is vacuum filtrated. The resulting phosphoric acid has a concentration of 30 percent P_2O_5 .

The phosphate which is supplied to Maroc-Chimie and Maroc-Phosphore I comes from Youssoufia. The phosphate which will supply Maroc-Phosphore II will come from Ben Guerir. The Youssoufia phosphate is crushed in a dry state; that of Ben Guerir will be crushed immediately after washing on site and, therefore, will be wet.

Sulfuric acid is produced either from pyrrhotite (an ore which comes from Kettara) that has an average sulfur content of 30 percent; i.e., imported

sulphur. The principal operations consist in burning the pyrrhotite or the sulfur to obtain SO_2 (sulfur dioxide) gas which is transformed by means of catalytic oxidation into SO_3 gas which will produce sulfuric acid.

The combustion of pyrrhotite and sulfur is done exothermically. The heat is recovered to produce steam which is used to produce electric energy in particular.

Each complex has its own thermal power plant which provides the energy needed to operate the complex. The sulphur power is fed into the ONE [National Electricity Office] power grid.

Part of the steam is used to raise the concentration of the phosphoric acid from 20 to 54 percent P_2O_5 .

Treble Superphosphate or TSP

TSP is obtained by a chemical reaction between crushed phosphate and phosphoric acid of 40 percent P_2O_5 . The resulting mixture passes through a cycle of granulation, drying and grading.

The end product is in the form of granules whose granularity ranges from 0 to 4 mm. The TSP has a titer of 43 percent water-soluble P_2O_5 .

Ammonium Sulfophosphate or ASP

This fertilizer is produced from phosphoric acid and imported ammonia. A small amount of sulfuric acid is necessary to obtain a titer of 19 percent nitrogen and 38 percent P_2O_5 . The manufacturing cycle is the same as that of TSP.

NPK Mixed (Compound) Fertilizers

The process is the same as for the manufacture of ASP with the additional introduction of potassium chloride at the granulation stage.

These three kinds of fertilizers are produced at Maroc-Chimie.

Monoammonium Phosphate

This product is the result of a reaction between phosphoric acid with a concentration of 54 percent P_2O_5 and ammonia. After the reaction, the product moves into a prilling tower which yields a granularity of 0 to 2 mm. The MAP titrates 11 percent nitrogen and 55 percent P_2O_5 . This product is manufactured at Maroc-Phosphore I.

Maroc-Phosphore II will not produce solid fertilizers.

SPAIN COMPETING FOR AFRICAN SARDINE MARKET

Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 19 Sep 80 p 9

[Text] There is new cause for concern among fish canners: Spain has just launched an aggressive campaign to compete with Morocco on the African markets.

Thanks to its production in the Canary Islands where manpower is relatively cheap, the supply of plentiful fish and the transport of finished products enjoys considerable advantages, Spain is in a position to impact heavily upon our sales.

Everything seems to have started with the announcement of the contract for 600,000 boxes of canned sardines between the OCE [Marketing and Export Office] and Nigeria. Spanish industrialists took offense at this and decided to make an all out effort on the African markets by offering veritable dumping prices. Moroccan producers are all the more bitter about this action because Moroccan-Spanish accords, particularly in the fishing sector, seemed to have brought about a rapprochement between the industries of the two countries. What is more, the announced contract for 600,000 cartons is still far from being filled. So much so that even Moroccan canning sectors fear that it never will be.

A total of 90,000 boxes has been delivered; and it was agreed that the cans of that 60 percent of the order; i.e., 360,000 boxes, were to bear the brand name of the buyer, that is a Nigerian brand name.

In such commercial practices, the buyer is supposed to supply the can manufacturer with a design; however, weeks and months have gone by but this design still has not been supplied. The manufacture of cans requires a minimum of 2 months; and it is feared that as the fishing season moves forward, Morocco will find itself in a position of being unable to fill its contract, if decisions are not made immediately.

Moroccan industrialists are, therefore, wondering whether foreign interventions or excessively competitive offers are not being made so that Morocco will lose this market. The canners on the one hand want the talks with Nigeria to be resumed to finalize this important market and on the other hand a meeting with the Spanish interested parties to permit reestablishment of the excellent relations which we had with this country and which we will continue to have in other sectors.

8143

CSO: 4400

FRANCE FAVORED AS SUBSTITUTE FOR U.S. IN MIDEAST

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 19 Jul 80 p 12

[Article by Fu'ad Matar: "France, the Substitute"]

[text] More than at any other time in the past, it seems that France, unlike other European countries, is being called upon to develop its military industry and its industrial technology so as to be able to respond to Arab requests which may register record levels in the 1980's.

Every time the United States comes out in favor of Israeli interests, France's importance increases in the view of the Arabs. Up to now, France has appeared to be the advanced country that generates the most confidence among Arab countries. The common denominator of this trust is that France wants to play a role without trying to establish hegemony, and that most Arab countries are not prepared to try again the games of the 1950's and 1960's, which were based on trying to benefit from the rivalry of the two superpowers to obtain weapons from them.

To the extent that France develops its military industries and industrial technology, it relieves some Arab countries of the burden of having to make major decisions [sic].

We are currently witnessing a developing situation which provides an opening to France, if it should decide to develop its resources as we mentioned above. The new situation is reflected in the words expressed last week by Prince Sultan, the Saudi minister of defense and aviation, in response to the maneuvers and pressures of the Zionist lobby in the American Congress. Some 70 congressmen signed a letter urging President Jimmy Carter to block an arms package requested by Saudi Arabia. Prince Sultan said: "We say to the Zionist lobby which is exerting pressures during the elections campaign: 'You are losers wherever you are.' The kingdom will not submit an order, only to be turned down, so long as it possesses a prominent moral, economic, geographic and social position with the help of God."

Such sharp words constitute something relatively new in the domain of Saudi-American relations. Although these words are addressed to a number of American congressmen who support Israel, they are also intended to be heard by President Carter. These words mean very clearly that should Saudi Arabia not get the arms it requested from the United States, it would get them from another source.

Since, for objective reasons, that other source cannot be the Soviet Union, France is ready to do the job.

Even if the Saudi threat is effective and gives rise to some change in the position of those members of Congress who support Israel, so that Saudi Arabia will get its arms package, France will still be called upon to develop its military industry and its industrial technology. This is because new circumstances may create a crisis in Saudi-American relations at any moment. Such circumstances are always possible so long as the United States continues to side with Israel, and so long as Saudi Arabia will not back out of its position on the Camp David agreement, no matter how hard the United States tries to change this position.

For its part, Saudi Arabia is actively seeking to make France a possible substitute for the United States. Before the Venice summit, a Saudi-French consultation of the utmost importance took place so that President Ciscard d'Estaing may be able to resist the nations toeing the American line. French resistance was only partial. But once France's steadfastness grows, defiance of the United States by the Arabs in general, and the Saudis in particular, will increase.

The Arab foreign and finance ministers agreed at their last conference in Amman on a strategy of joint economic effort through the year 2000, based on integrated Arab development. They approved the principle of joint Arab development in response to Iraq's proposal to set aside a billion to a billion and a half dollars annually for purposes of Arab growth. However, the next Arab summit conference will have to set the standards whereby each Arab country could benefit from this action.

France is an advanced country capable of serving this development. The Arab resolution taken regarding development ties it to abidance by the resolutions of the Tunis and Baghdad summit conferences. France, following President d'Estaing's initiative, which was exposed to some attacks at the Venice summit, is the country that is closest to the aims of these two Arab summits, and the country which demonstrates the greatest degree of understanding of the Arab position.

The developments arising from the American way of doing business with the Arabs, as illustrated by what is now occurring in its dealings with Saudi Arabia, represent a unique opportunity for France. Although there are some risks in this opportunity, it is still a historic chance. Out of it, President d'Estaing might realize what General De Gaulle hoped to achieve when he adopted the historic position in favor of the Arabs during the 1967 war. President d'Estaing must have sensed French opportunity during his past trips to the Arab world. He will become even more aware of it when he visits Iraq this autumn. President Saddam Husayn may help induce him to take the role that France is called upon to play.

In any event, it is a role favorable to France's interests and prestige.

REACTION TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN ON F-15 ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 19 Jul 80 pp 10-11

[Article by Sulayman Nimr: "The Battle for the F-15; the Jewish Lobby Opposing the Saudi Lobby"]

[Text] Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: "Washington did not place any conditions on us on the planes deal. America is not the only source of our weapons. We do not bargain over our national principles. We will continue to reject the Camp David accords and any foreign military presence in our region. Saudi Arabia is the top oil supplier in the world. It is necessary that nations share in strengthening the kingdom's defense of its own interests as well as of the interests of the world."

Riyadh--On his way on Wednesday morning to the graduation ceremonies of a new class of officers from the Saudi Staff and Command College in Riyadh, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, read news reports about the letter which 70 American congressmen wrote to President Carter requesting him not to approve the sale of the additional equipment for the F-15's, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

After Prince Sultan distributed the diplomas and certificates to the officers, he surprised the audience, which included the ambassadors of several Arab countries, as well as some foreign military attaches, with an improvised speech in which he replied to the American congressmen's letter to Carter. He said: "It is reported that 70 members of the American Congress sent a letter to President Carter demanding that the kingdom not be given advanced weapons. Our answer is that the kingdom will not order arms only to be rejected. The kingdom possesses sufficient strength through the help of God, and its spiritual, social and economic leadership, not to be in a position to make a request only to be turned down."

Prince Sultan added: "When the kingdom places orders for arms, its requests are met in America as well as in other Western countries. The kingdom is not aware of weapons withheld or new advances denied to it."

In his closing remarks on this subject, the Prince said: "We say to the Zionist lobby which is applying pressure during the American elections campaign: 'You are losers wherever you are and wherever you go.'"

After the ceremonies, AL-MUSTAQBAL interviewed Prince Sultan to obtain further clarification of his words and of the congressman's letter.

[Question] Do you believe that the letter of the congressman to President Carter will obstruct the sale of additional equipment to the kingdom?

[Answer] Up to now, there has been no change or development that would prevent filling the order we have placed for the kingdom. We have never made requests for arms to the United States or other countries, and been turned down.

[Question] In the event the Congress succeeds in obstructing the sale of this additional equipment to the kingdom, are there other sources from which this equipment can be obtained?

[Answer] Everyone knows that the kingdom has a number of arms sources in friendly Western countries. The United States is not the only source for provisioning the Saudi Arabian army. But we hope to obtain the additional equipment for the F-15's, because the kingdom has the right to enhance its defense capabilities, especially in view of current events occurring in this region.

[Question] Don't you believe that it is possible that Washington may resort to placing conditions on the kingdom before Washington would agree to the additional equipment sales deal? For example, it could ask for Saudi approval of the Camp David accords, or of military facilitations for America in the area.

[Answer] I would like to clarify here that the United States has not presented to the kingdom any special conditions for approval of the sale of this equipment or of any other arms requests. This has not happened. Nor will we permit anyone to place on the kingdom any conditions for our obtaining arms, be it from the United States or anyone else. Our positions are clear and independent regarding the Camp David accords or the granting of military facilitations in the region to any foreign power. We will not bargain over these two issues to obtain arms or for anything else.

[Question] And if Washington places such conditions?

[Answer] We would not permit it. It would be completely unacceptable. It is not customary for the kingdom to entertain any conditions or stipulations from any source whatsoever. [end of answer]

Before Prince Sultan made these statements, Shaykh Faysal al-Hajjlan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, had sharply attacked the message sent by the congressmen to President Carter. He said: "The United States would be placing the interests of Israel before American interests in the Middle East." The Saudi ambassador emphasized in the statement he made in Washington that Saudi Arabia, which possesses a quarter of the world reserves of oil, and which exports a third of

the oil traded in the world market, has the right to enhance the effectiveness of its defense capabilities, especially after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan."

Shaykh al-Hajilan alluded to an important point when he said: "The matter is much more important than the mere additional equipment, which is opposed in the congressmen's letter, and which is available from other sources without conditions or restrictions."

Before all of this, but after the meeting held on 26 June in Geneva between Prince Sultan and Harold Brown, the U.S. secretary of defense, there were several reports that the Carter administration had decided to delay the sale of the additional equipment for the F-15's to Riyadh until after the American presidential elections in November. According to the WASHINGTON STAR, quoting informed American sources, "this was to avoid a direct clash between President Carter and Israeli pressure groups during the election campaign."

Despite the concern caused by these reports among Saudi officials, it was noted that no comment was made regarding them by Saudi Arabia. Even in the first week of July, when the Saudi cabinet met, and Prince Sultan presented a report about his discussions with Harold Brown (which dealt at length with the subject of the additional equipment), no Saudi statement was issued about this subject. Prince Sultan himself did not comment on the reports in question, even though Menachem Begin, the Israeli prime minister, had let it be known in early July that Israel would exert pressure on Washington not to sell the additional equipment to Saudi Arabia, because, as he claimed, "If the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were given this offensive equipment, its F-15 fighter planes would have the capability to strike Tel Aviv and return to their bases in 20 minutes."

Why then did Prince Sultan make the above statement less than 12 hours after the American congressmen directed their letter to President Carter? Why was the Saudi press so concerned as to prominently publish the statement of the Saudi ambassador to Washington, in which he attacked the congressmen, and in which he charged that the United States would favor Israel's interests over its own interests in the Middle East?

The popular newspaper, AL-JAZIRAH, published the Saudi ambassador's words under banner headline on the front page on 10 June 1980. This was accompanied by a sharply worded editorial which said: "We state frankly and with a loud voice that the United States is trying to lose all its friendships and all its relations and vital interests with the countries of the Middle East, by allowing this kind of tampering with the destinies of the American people by the Zionist lobby in the Congress, the White House, or the Pentagon."

As a matter of fact, the congressmen's letter to President Carter gave rise to extreme Saudi indignation. Informed sources in Riyadh told AL-MUSTAQBAL that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not view this matter as a mere question of additional equipment for the F-15's, because Riyadh is capable of obtaining similar equipment from other Western nations, thanks to its strong relations with them. This is particularly true of France, which is bound by such strong ties with Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab countries that it would not fail to satisfy any arms requests by Riyadh. As Saudi officials see it, at issue is the

Zionist influence within the American administration. It is this influence which prevents Washington from realizing that its genuine interests in the Middle East are more important than the interests of Israel.

Informed sources expect a confrontation in Washington in the next few weeks between the "Zionist lobby," which pressures the American administration to favor the interests of Israel over any other U.S. interests, particularly during the present election campaign, and the "Saudi lobby" which views U.S. economic and oil interests in the Middle East as far more important than the interests of Israel. If Riyadh is successful in this confrontation, the event would have great significance for Arab-American relations. Its greatest significance is that it would mark the beginning of a change in American policy toward the Middle East crisis, which would make Washington view the situation with less bias for Israel. Such a change has been sought by Saudi Arabia for a long time, as evidenced by the Saudi ambassador's words that the matter is far more important than a mere issue of additional equipment.

9587

CSO: 4802

SAUDI TRADE CONFERENCE PLANNED

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 14 Oct 80 p 3

[Text] JEDDAH, Oct. 13 — A conference is to be held November 13-14 in Houston, Texas for American companies intending to do business in Saudi Arabia.

The conference, organized by the London *Middle East Economic Digest* and Advanced Market Research International, aims to help American businesses take advantage of the continuing boom in the Kingdom's economy. Imports, the conference prospectus points out, soared by 28.6 per cent to \$26.3 billion in 1979, and the 80 per cent rise in oil prices in the last 18 months is creating even more acute expansionary pressures. These are reflected in the \$73.7 billion state budget for 1980-81 a 27 per cent rise on the estimate in the last budget. The high growth strategy is confirmed by the third five-year development plan (1980-85), which calls for an increase of 57 per cent to \$222 billion in the

level of development expenditure compared to the previous five-year plan.

With the emphasis on education, training, maintenance, telecommunications, electricity and other high-technology services, the new plan promises a market that is not only larger but also of a higher quality.

But the collapse of the Iranian market and the political and economic uncertainties in other Middle Eastern states have brought increased competition for the still stable Saudi Arabian market from European and Far Eastern businesses, says the prospectus. The conference is designed to help American companies take on these competitors.

The conference will be addressed by a senior official of the Kingdom's ministry of commerce, as well as trade experts from the United States.

CSO: 4820

SAUDI GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS ITS CONTROL OF AWACS

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 14 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] JEDDAH, Oct. 13 (SPA) — Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan reiterated the Kingdom's refusal to allow any type of foreign presence in the region.

In an interview with *Al-Jazirah* Monday Prince Sultan confirmed that the presence of the AWACS planes in Saudi Arabia was controlled by the Kingdom's Government. "We have freedom of decision and policy," he said.

Saudi-U.S. relations were based on respect and equality, the prince said, and not on alliance and commitments. "We don't work behind screens. The Kingdom's policy is clear and not on alliance and commitments. We don't work behind screens. The Kingdom's policy is clear and known to all," he said.

Commenting on hostile media report on the issue of the AWACS planes, Prince Sultan said, "These people know we are not against criticism. But we are against distorting facts and lying." The reports claimed the AWACS planes' mission was something more than strengthening the Saudi Arabian air force radar system.

The visit of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman, Gen. David Jones, to the Kingdom took place in response to a previous invitation and did not have any link with the present situation in the region, the prince said.

Asked about the truth of Arab press reports that the U.S. turned down a Saudi request for Hawk missiles, Prince Sultan said that the Kingdom has these missiles now. "If

we find the necessity to increase the number of Hawk missiles, we know when to request it and the quantity we need," he added.

Regretably, some of the Arab press chase such malicious news.

Sunday, Prince Sultan laid the cornerstone of a SR1.6 billion armed forces medical center for the Eastern Province on a 470,000 square meter site.

The center will include a 300-bed hospital with a specialist intensive care ward and special facilities for treating burns, as well as a ward for artificial kidneys, a department of nuclear medicine, X-ray and chemical laboratories and a physiotherapy section.

According to Dr. Reza Khalifa, director of medical services for the armed forces who delivered a speech on the occasion, the center will include a technical institute for medical services that will accommodate 300 trainees. The institute will have enough classrooms and modern laboratories for all branches of medicine and all technical hospital specialities.

There will also be a housing complex for 325 students, 1,298 apartments and sports grounds. A mosque for the compound will accommodate 800 persons. In addition, the project will have its own industrial zone with maintenance facilities, a water purification and treatment plant, a power station and warehouses for medicine. Work on the project is expected to be completed in May, 1985.

MODERNIZED JIDDAH STEEL CASTING PLANT STARTING OPERATIONS

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 29 Jul 80 p 3

[Interview with 'Abd al-Muhsin al-'Utaybi, deputy general manager of Jiddah Steel Casting Company, by Husayn al-Zahrani]

[Excerpts] The Steel Casting Company of Jiddah is one of the subsidiaries of the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Company (SABIC). It is the first of SABIC's projects to start operations. The plant, which includes some of the most modern machinery and equipment is almost ready to put its commercial products on the local market, and to satisfy an essential portion of its needs. Saudi workers are 85 percent the total work force at the plant. They operate all sections of the plant efficiently, having been sent abroad and trained according to the most modern methods of instruction. AL-MADINAH interviewed 'Abd al-Muhsin al-'Utaybi, deputy general manager of the Steel Casting Company of Jiddah. Here is an account of the conversation.

[Question] Please give us a detailed idea of the plant and some of its operations.

[Answer] This plant was started in 1965. The late King Faysal laid its cornerstone in that year. Petromin undertook its construction to mark the beginning of the age of industrial awakening in the kingdom, especially in the area of iron and steel production. This was to satisfy some of the kingdom's needs for iron rods for reinforced concrete at that time. The plant satisfied a large part of the needs of the western region for iron reinforcement rods under the management of Petromin, and had a planned production capacity of about 45,000 tons yearly.

This plant was one of the first established in the kingdom. Saudi young men sought work at the plant as ordinary and skilled workers, technicians and engineers, and had an opportunity to receive on the job technical training. In this connection, I would like to point out that most of the workers of the plant are Saudis, since they now comprise more than 85 percent of the total work force.

When the Ministry of Industry and Electricity was formed, and all metal production activities became under the control of the ministry, the plant's ownership was transferred to the ministry, which formed a committee to manage it. When SABIC was established as the state-owned company for the implementation of basic industrial projects (such as the production of iron, steel, petrochemicals, etc), ownership of the plant was transferred to SABIC. SABIC entrusted several specialized

companies to prepare an extensive study of the existing condition of the plant and its requirements to keep pace with the comprehensive industrial awakening of the kingdom. It was decided as a result of this study to modernize the plant, raise its production capacity to 140,000 tons annually, and staff it with qualified natives. In addition, it was decided to invite a foreign iron and steel company to become a partner in the plant, so as to gain technical know-how from it and train Saudi workers. In fact, an agreement was concluded with one of the foremost Iranian iron and steel companies to this end.

Accordingly, a new company was formed under the name of the Steel Casting Company of Jeddah on 1 July 1978. The new company embarked on modernization of the plant.

Production Capacity

[Question:] What is the yearly production capacity, and can it be expanded in the future?

[Answer:] The plant is divided into two production units. The first unit produces 50,000 tons annually of small-size iron rods for reinforced concrete. Trial production has actually begun in this unit.

The second division, the casting unit, is now being built. Upon completion, it will produce about 90,000 tons of large-size iron rods for reinforced concrete in conformity with the most modern worldwide specifications. Thus, total production capacity of the plant will be 140,000 tons a year.

As for future expansion of this capacity, it would depend among other things on the volume of local market demand, especially when the al-Jubayl project begins to produce reinforcing iron. Al-Jubayl's capacity, as you know, will exceed 800,000 tons annually.

Q: Will you satisfy all needs?

[Question:] What kind of equipment and machines are in use at the plant? And will it satisfy the needs of the kingdom?

[Answer:] The machines and equipment used at the plant are the most modern in the world for the production of reinforcing iron rods, and most operations are automated. In this regard, I would like to make clear that this plant is for casting steel, not producing it. Imported steel ingots are heated in a special oven to a temperature of about 1500 degrees centigrade, whereupon the steel is mechanically processed through various casting operations.

The Kingdom's consumption of iron reinforcing rods in the past year reached nearly 2 million tons. This consumption exceeded all expectations, as a result of the building boom that has swept over the kingdom. This plant will not be able to satisfy all the kingdom's needs. However, when the al-Jubayl project begins production, most of the needs of the kingdom for this product will be met, in perfection.

[Question] What about training and how much will the total cost of the plant reach?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the human factor is one of the most important elements of the industrial base, if not the most important. Based on this, SAKIC has from its inception persisted in its emphasis on training in all its projects. It has given training the highest priority. This has occurred at the Steel Casting Company of Jiddah. As soon as the new company was formed, it began to prepare a training program for technical employees with the cooperation of the German firm. Already 40 individuals have been sent to the firm's plant in Germany, where they have spent some time training on steel casting machinery, especially those like the ones in use here. These trainees, all Saudi, have returned and are doing an excellent job.

[Question] What final words would you like to say?

[Answer] I would like to praise first of all the wise policy of industrialization planned by the government of His Majesty the King, which augurs a prosperous future for the citizens of this country. I would also like to commend the efforts of the officials of SAKIC.

I would also like to urge Saudi iron merchants, contractors and ordinary consumers to acquire their needs of reinforcing iron from this plant in response to the appeal of Gazi Al-Sasabi, the minister of industry and electricity: "Be Saudi, and buy Saudi products."

The plant will produce the best grades of iron at competitive prices and with prompt delivery dates. This will relieve the merchant and contractor of many problems related to importing, storing and price fluctuations.

We are prepared to discuss the needs of any dealer or contractor, and to fill their orders to their satisfaction.

END

(By AM)

ENORMOUS NEW PETROCHEMICAL PLANT CONTRACT SIGNED

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 29 Sep 80 p 3

/Article by Sultan al-Bazi'/: "Signing of a Contract To Construct the Biggest Petrochemical Project in the Kingdom"/

/Text/ An announcement was made concerning the establishment of the Saudi Petrochemical Company yesterday in Riyadh following signature of the final participation agreement between the Saudi Basic Industries Company, Sabic, and the United States Shell Oil Company. The new company will construct a petrochemical complex in al-Jubyal to produce a number of petrochemical products derived from natural gas. Project costs will come to 11 billion riyals, and it is expected that its production will start 5 years from now.

Signing the participation agreement were His Excellency Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity and chairman of the board of Sabic, Mr John Bookhout, president of the Shell Company, and Mr S. Styles, chairman of the board of the Arabian Bechtel Company Ltd, wholly owned by the Shell Company /sic/.

His Excellency Dr al-Qusaybi, in the statement he made on the occasion, pointed out that the long period the negotiations lasted was used to carry out all the necessary economic and technical studies and fully prepare for the basic preparatory materials the project will require, enabling the fledgling company directly to start carrying out the project.

His excellency said,

"The Saudi Petrochemical Company, which will be established as a joint project between the Saudi Basic Industries Company and the Bechtel Company owned by Shell (1 /sic/), clearly reflects the method the kingdom encourages in establishing such technically complicated projects, which is the method of international cooperation represented in joint projects in order to make maximum benefit of the expertise of the foreign partner in the production and marketing fields.

"There is no doubt that the entry by the Shell Company, which is one of the biggest companies in the world, into the project as a partner, clearly shows the extent of the confidence the Saudi economy enjoys and the soundness of the approach we have called for, which is for the petrochemical industry to be established in the area where relative advantages, especially raw materials, are present.

"We thank the Shell Oil Company for the confidence it has shown toward the kingdom, and I especially thank its president, Mr Bookhout, who has always been one of the biggest supporters of this project."

His Excellency Dr al-Qusaybi said,

"This great complex will without a doubt constitute the cornerstone for future chemical industries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the kingdom will be able to enter into world markets as a partner competing in the sales of these products. The kingdom will also be able to establish integrated industries which the domestic economy requires.

"There is no doubt that the new company will provide the kingdom with high international technology and consequently young Saudis will acquire high skills in a field which is considered one of the advanced industries of the world.

"This project, in producing these useful materials, will use a material which in the past had been burned as waste, namely natural gas. The exploitation of this resource, which had been wasted, is really to be considered a turning point in the orientation of Saudi industry."

Mr. Bookhout, president of the Shell Company, described this firm by stating "This is only a reflection of the good repute the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoys in terms of security, stability and fair dealings with others. We are very happy to be guests in the kingdom but at the same time we will struggle hard to be a suitable partner in the development efforts now underway in this kingdom. We thank you for this trust. We also thank you for the good hospitality which we will never abuse."

Mr Bookhout continued,

"In view of the strength of your will and your farsightedness, and also because great financial resources are present, plants have been provided to gather and separate gas for the sake of the full use of the natural gas associated with the other oil products. It is possible to reinject this gas and use it in feeding the petrochemical complex and supplying fuel for the plants.

"Thus one of the resources abundant in the kingdom, which we have not used and the kingdom has not benefited from, has been converted to a productive goal. A world thirsty for petroleum energy will only be thankful and indebted for such a measure. This is proof of the extent of feeling for international responsibility to the economic system of the free world which is clearly manifest in the wise leadership of His Majesty King Khalid and his crown prince Fahd."

Eng. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil, Deputy board chairman of Sabir, said that this massive petrochemical complex would be composed of six large-sized plants and would produce five basic petrochemical products-ethylene, ethylene dichloride, ethanol, caustic soda and styrene.

He said, "The costs of constructing this complex, totalling 11 billion riyals, reflect the nature of capital intensity in this type of industry, reducing the number

of foreign laborers because of its complex machinery, since the complex does not need more than 1,300 workers for its operation.

"We have chosen the system of building the complex by means of prefabricated units shipped to the site in order to reduce the volume of foreign labor, and this will result in giving Saudi citizens an opportunity to hold major administrative and operating positions in the project."

Eng al-Zamil, in response to AL-RIYAD's question on the response the training program Sabic organized has received young Saudis and its effect in reducing the percentage of foreign workers in Basic Industry projects, said, "There is no doubt that the response Sabic has met is to be considered a turning point in the training programs; the programs were designed to accommodate 240 trainees; because of this reception the number was raised to 400. We aim to reach greater than this rate in a longer period, so that we may realize a 100 percent proportion of Saudis in administration of the industrialization program."

"The complex will produce 656,000 metric tons of ethylene, 295,000 metric tons of styrene, 281,000 tons of raw industrial ethanol, 454,000 metric tons of ethylene dichloride and 377,000 metric tons of caustic soda annually."

This is to be considered the biggest of the Saudi Basic Petrochemical Industries Company projects and is the seventh project whose final participation agreement has been signed.

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CSD: 4-02

BRIEFS

BANK AID TO FARMERS—As a responsible official in the bank stated to AL-RIYAD, Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank reports, in statistics prepared by the bank for its activities in the months of May, June and July of this year, 1980-81, that the volume of loans came to about 426,443,099 riyals, accounting for about 6,476 loans offered to people working in the agricultural sector, in the form of farmers and investors in the field of agricultural projects contributing to the attainment of the self-sufficiency in food needed for the consumers by helping to provide such basic food elements as meat, dairy products, eggs, vegetables and fruit. The services of the bank during this period extended to include fishermen and beekeepers as well as bedouins and renters of agricultural equipment. It is worth pointing out that the loans the bank has offered, are aimed at supplying the farmers with the money they need to meet the expenses of farming, the accessories it requires and agricultural project insurance. By the grace of God, it has been possible to provide about 4,771 machines and 4,131 pumps during this period of the year, in addition to more than 5,307 items of agricultural equipment and the tractors, plows, harvesters, trucks, excavators, threshers, pipelayers and so forth attached to them. In addition, about 25 percent of specialized agricultural projects have been financed by the bank in this period. The source adds that the value of the aid in the first quarter came to about 117,140,926 riyals; this was provided for agricultural production factors in the form of machines, pumps, agricultural machinery, fodder, poultry raising equipment and dairy producing equipment, as well as fishing gear. The source concluded his statement by saying that the high official orders which were recently issued giving agreement to extension of the period for payment of Agricultural Bank loans from 5 to 10 years will encourage many investors to explore the agricultural field in order to move the wheel of agricultural development, achieving prosperity and welfare in this sphere. /Text/ /Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 15 Sep 80 p 2/

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS—In the projects drawn up by the Municipality of al-'Umran in the town of al-'Umran and the villages surrounding it, the municipality has awarded bids for the paving and lighting project to a domestic organization. This will cover all the area of al-'Umran and outlying districts with its 21 villages. This was stated in AL-RIYAD by Mr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Furayh, mayor of al-'Umran, who added that the first stage of the appropriation project for the ring road about the town of al-'Umran has been completed; its costs will total 5 million riyals, and the money due the people owning the appropriated real estate will be paid out. On the environmental health projects in the Eastern Province, he declared that drilling has been completed on three wells for potable water in the villages of

al-Rumaylah, al-Chasi and al-Sivayirah, and construction has been completed on water tanks in the town of al-'Umran and the village of al-Rumaylah. Also, a water line has been laid in the al-Khudayri and al-Duwaykiyah sections. He also added that the network budgets concerning the swamps and depressed areas in the villages of al-Kilabiyah, al-Miqdam and al-Hulaylah have been presented to the Environmental Health Committee in the Eastern Province preparatory to filling them in under the committee project. Regarding the scheme for lands for people with limited incomes, he stated that work is still underway on the scheme for people with limited incomes in al-Kilabiyah, which comprises about 300 housing lots with utilities, and it will be completed shortly, God willing. It will also be paved and connected to a divided highway 60 meters wide containing sidewalks and lighting also. /Text/ /Riyadh
AL-RIYAD in Arabic 27 Sep 80 p 3/ 11887

NEW GAS PLANTS--Riyadh, Oct. 6 (SPA)--The National Gas Company Monday awarded a SR 220 million contract for three automatic gas storing and filling plants in Taif, Qassim and Abha. The company's Director General Dr. Ibrahim Al-Khudair stated that the aim of constructing these plants, each with an initial 70,000-ton annual capacity, is to expand the facility and to increase the plant's productive capacity. The step has been taken in light of rising demand and the state directives to facilitate the supply of gas for the citizens, he said. Khudair added that the company is operating similar plants in Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Medina, and is in the process of taking over some other new plants. /Text/ /Jiddah ARAB
NEWS in English 7 Oct 80 p 1/

CSO: 4820

SYRIA

SYRIAN GRAND MUFTI GIVES PERSONAL INTERVIEW IN EAST BERLIN

East Berlin HORIZONT in German Vol 13 No 21, 1980 signed to press 19 May 80
pp 14-15

[Interview with Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaru, Grand Mufti of the Syrian Arab Republic, in East Berlin (date not given), by Carl-Friedrich Reinhardt: "HORIZONT Portrait: Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaru--A Meeting With the Grand Mufti of the Syrian Arab Republic"]

[Excerpt] From the Barada to the Spree

Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaru--the title "shaykh" is somewhat of an equivalent here of priest or scholar--and other Islamic dignitaries are for studies in the GDR at this point. Knowing he will have a very busy program today, I ask his indulgence for disturbing him so early--while he is having breakfast. With kind consideration he says: "How so? Is it not pleasant to take in some spiritual food along with one's breakfast?"

And promptly, in answer to my question, Shaykh Kaftaru starts telling me how he came to assume the office of the highest Islamic dignitary in Syria--having been born, in 1915, as the son of a ulema, scholar Shaykh Mohamad Amin, in Damascus.

"First I studied with theologians Islamic and Arab sciences in the traditional individual manner. Thereafter one gets licensed by one's teacher to give Islamic religious lessons oneself. This I did for 40 years. I would lecture about Islam everywhere, many times also in Damascus, mainly in the largest mosque of Damascus, the Beni-Omrad, but also in others--such as the mosque of Abu Nur. That is located in an Islamic center of scholarship in Damascus. That center has two institutes and an Islamic theological faculty. I founded that institute in 1972, and there is where I work at present. But even before that, in 1956, I had founded two institutes, secondary schools, as it were, with a religious orientation, one for girls and one for boys."

He stresses and accentuates his words well and, using gestures sparingly, describes his teaching activities which evidently give him much satisfaction. At times he rearranges a sleeve of his grey garment, the djilbab, something like a caftan. His white headgear, the ainama, makes his face shine a bit more. Altogether this is the picture of a successful teacher.

Tasks of the Grand Mufti

Because of his many distinctions, Shaykh Kaftaru was appointed mufti of the city of Damascus. "That was in 1952, and that was my function until 1964. Then the General Mufti, the Grand Mufti of Syria was chosen." Shaykh Kaftaru emphasizes: "The law in our country is that this office calls for a vote by higher religious scholars. Thus in 1964 I was chosen the Grand Mufti and I am simultaneously the chairman of the Supreme Islamic Council (the Mufti Council) in Syria."

That office took him, as Syria's representative, to many parts of the Islamic world and made him take part in many conferences and scholarly congresses. Due to that, he earned an honorary doctorate from the Sherif Hadayatollah Islamic State University in Djakarta, Indonesia. In the same year he was awarded the highest medal of the Islamic Republic, in Pakistan, the "Star of Pakistan." He also traveled to Western countries, however, and, among other things, on the invitation from the Great Lakes Universities in the United States, gave lectures there on Islamic and Arab affairs and--he makes a special point of this--on the problems of the Palestinians.

Had he visited socialist countries at this time too? "I was several times in the Soviet Union, on four visits in 1969, 1973, 1974 and 1979. I visited mosques in the Soviet Union, gave lectures and met in Moscow with high representatives of the Soviet government. We had very interesting talks. Though our philosophical points of view differed, one of the persons I talked with said to me at the end: 'If Islam is as you have presented it to us, it really is a good thing.' I have another invitation from the Soviet Union this year, for next fall."

Christians and Moslems

One matter Shaykh Kaftaru evidently is most concerned with is the relationship between Christians and Moslems, more exactly the cooperation of all people for the safeguarding of peace. "For more than 30 years I have advocated that Christians and Moslems move closer toward each other and live in peace together. It altogether is my view--which I also have been stressing in many meetings and talks during my current visit in the GDR--that much still remains to be done to deepen the cooperation and good relations among the nations, precisely for reasons of making a good contribution to the preservation of peace."

And Shaykh Kaftaru continues: "I always proceeded from my Islamic faith, for Prophet Mohammed has said--and I paraphrase slightly: 'A Moslem is, willy-nilly, the brother of others.' The term 'atheists,' it seems to me, should be replaced by a better term: people who think scientifically. For there are many different possibilities that can be used--faith, reason and science--for the benefit of cooperation and peace and, above and beyond that, international fraternity and love among the people."

Islam and the State

Those probably also are the terms in which one must understand the clear reply Shaykh Kaftaru made to the question of how he perceived of his task as the highest Islamic dignitary in Syria in relation to the Syrian state, especially since many Western mass media are rousing incitement in this regard particularly. "The attitude and words of our President Hafiz al-Assad make an unequivocal reply easy. This president is a believer, a Moslem president, and I think the relations between state and religion are very very good, and there are no disadvantages.

I have been friendly with the president for more than 15 years. We are good friends. I know his faith, his conduct, his ethics. We trust him completely. Not only we, the religious leaders, the whole nation trusts him. It is the natural thing that there always are some wicked people who want to sow discord. But those aspects of the imperialist mass media are, after all, known well enough."

He himself, Shaykh Kaftaru emphasizes, had been a delegate of the People's Council to the Syrian parliament for one election period. "My work was like that of any deputy who serves his people. Islam, after all, is not a 'religion of prayers' but one of life that enters the various domains of life and does everything for people. And while our President Hafiz al-Assad is now considering how to expand the National Progressive Front, we, being responsible for religion in Syria, will do likewise. That is our duty and task."

In view of the current imperialist threat against the countries in the Near and Middle East, the threat with the "big stick," and after the hypocritical words of the U.S. President himself about his "deep respect and veneration for Islam" have been led ad absurdum by his deeds, Shaykh Kaftaru says, very calmly, and judiciously and prudently, I think: "In our time, the existence of man, the survival of mankind, is most closely associated with the problem of preserving the peace. We work for peace and, even more still, for the higher goal of establishing brotherhood among the people. War and aggression find their pathogenic agent in egoism and the greed for conquest. This is a psychological illness, and illness of the soul, and these pathological ideas must be treated so that no evil consequences will result from them. It is not that I look at the problem of preventing wars from my emotions only. I look at it from the standpoint of science, conviction, religion and practical realization."

All Help for the Palestinians

Our talk logically leads us to the Steadfastness Front which, in its conferences--in January this year in Damascus and in April in Tripoli, Libya--adopted clear resolutions on supporting the Palestinians. Says Shaykh Kaftaru: "I believe all Arabs are ready to help the Palestinians, especially the countries of the Steadfastness Front. It reflects our patriotism, our

allegiance to the Arab Nation, and our Islamic faith. No Arab can afford not to help the Palestinians, as it were. Every Arab knows this is his first and foremost task. Moreover, the Palestinian problem has become an international problem as, altogether, the peace in the world is threatened by this problem.

On the other side: those who do not help and who try to derive their own benefits from this difficult situation, are people we cannot love, with whom one cannot be friendly. We must grant the Palestinian people all help possible so they will recover their legitimate claims to forming their own state. These rights belong among the human rights, as ratified by the international organizations, including the United Nations."

'Israel Committing Two Errors'

Shavkh Kaftaru most emphatically advocates that Israel should at last be forced internationally to recognize the Palestinians' legitimate rights to forming their own state. It would be in the vital interest of Israel itself. To bolster this argument, Shavkh Kaftaru adduces historic evidence that would be hard to refute: "In refusing to recognize the legitimate claims of the Palestinians, Israel is committing two crucial errors, one religious, the other historic.

First, Israel says it has a religious and a historical claim to the land of Palestine. It claims: 'God promised the land of Palestine to his son Abraham.' Which is in no way correct. God promised the land of Palestine to all his sons--to Isaac and to Ismail. And those are the Arabs and Jews together, not merely the Jews by themselves.

But furthermore: we can today no longer constantly refer to a judge of thousands of years ago. We have our judges and our laws in our times, and human rights have to be looked at in terms of our own times.

Secondly, it is regrettable to see how Israel is trying to bring Jews from foreign countries to Israel. Israel wants them to leave their homecountries and come to an alien land which, furthermore, is a conquered land. Why should they actually seek to find a new 'homeland' there?

There is absolutely no justification for inducing Jews in Europe or Asia to leave their homeland and settle in a country from which Palestinians were expelled. There is no reasonable ground for that, but that is what Israel is doing.

Israel is also committing a historic error in failing to learn any lessons from history. The crusades, after starting in the 11th century, lasted circa 200 years, as one knows. Jews also got to Palestine, causing horrible slaughters. But the crusaders, beaten, had to withdraw from Palestine, and the people of Palestine regained their rights. Later Jews, imperialists and colonialists conquered our countries, but the Jewish people did not exist their independence. And as the colonialists and imperialists suffer

defeats everywhere, the same will be Israel's fate. The Palestinian people will win and regain their legitimate rights."

When our conversation is nearing its end, words of friendly and solidary closeness, and of thanks, reverberate again for having become acquainted through many conversations and meetings during this visit in the GDR with a people "working with great diligence and scientific progress, and loving life." Great cordiality had welcomed him everywhere. "We have sensed with great joy the sincere friendship your country has for the Syrian people. And we are gratified in having observed that the GDR is making every effort for stabilizing world peace."

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CSO: 8120 /0096

UGTT COMMUNIQUE ON NATIONAL UNION COMMISSION

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 3 Oct 80 p 5

[Article: "Formation of the National Union Commission"]

[Text] With the decision made by the union leadership before 26 January 1978 to be represented by a national union commission, followed by a decision in the same direction by the present administrative commission of the UGTT [Tunisian General Federation of Labor] (see the communique, which follows), the solution of the union crisis now seems possible.

The proposal of the Political Bureau of the PSD [Destourian Socialist Party] to constitute a commission representing all union tendencies in order to prepare for a democratic congress has thus been understood and appreciated for its true worth.

This proposal and the positive reactions it has received are a response to President Bourguiba's recommendations and proceed from the solicitude he feels for all national organizations and his concern to consolidate the country's progress.

The compromise finally adopted by the union members is also a part of the Mzali government's new policy and responds to the government's efforts to give national politics a solid democratic base.

It also echoes the decisive role the party has assumed instituting a general environment suitable for work and the establishment of a solid platform for dialogue.

This important step towards a new congress is also a response to the expectation of the working masses, whose profound desire is to have a representative, responsible, and dynamic union organization, especially since great tasks, among which is the forthcoming review of collective conventions, are awaiting the social partners.

By going beyond details and other secondary matters, unionists have shown a sense of responsibility, which requires individuals to "yield to the national imperative," as Mr Mzali recently put it in his interview in LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE.

The administrative commission of the UGTT has sent TA' the following communique:

The administrative commission of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor, meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday 2 October 1980.

After taking the recommendation of the Political Bureau, dated 5 August 1980, calling for the constitution of a commission charged with preparing for the next UGTT congress in the framework of (liberty and democracy).

"After reviewing the decisions of the Administrative Commission at the successive meetings it has held, especially those of Friday and Saturday 12-13 September 1980:

"After examining the evolution of the union situation that has followed them and that foreshadows a positive and effective outcome and approach to the union crisis:

"Reaffirming its support for the far-seeing political orientation dictated by President Bourguiba and followed by Mr Mohamed Mzali, general secretary of the party and prime minister;

"Considering the decisive situation that our country has reached and that requires everyone to close ranks in order to preserve union unity and thereby consolidate national unity for the purpose of preserving our accomplishments and insuring our country's invulnerability:

"Faithful to the noble ideals of unionism and the eminently patriotic positions taken by the UGTT throughout its glorious history thanks to the labor of its members and martyrs, headed by the late Farnat Hached:

"Aware of the heavy responsibility devolving upon unionists and requiring them all to show abnegation and devotion in the service of the workers and our country and to respond to the general will of the workers to try to find a satisfactory solution to the union problem on the basis of liberty and democracy:

"(1) Decides to support the proposal of the Executive Bureau appointing to the national union commission Messrs:

Noureddine Hached
Ahmed Amara
Habib Chahouh
Ali Ben Mansour
Abdallah Ben Said

Lakhdar Jorjaj
Mohamed Ali Tlili
Toufik Benouar
Mehrez Ben Tlili
Amir Tlili

"(2) And to ratify the decision of the Executive Bureau to divest itself of its responsibilities and yield them to the national union commission for the purpose of facilitating its mission and insuring its successful working conditions.

"Signed: T. J. Amir

REGIONAL EQUILIBRIUM: KEYSTONE OF NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 6 Oct 80 p 55

[Article by Khaled Tebourbi: "Regional Equilibrium: Keystone of a New Development Strategy"]

[Text] The idea now seems to be accepted that regional development should be an entirely separate component part of the country's economic and social policy.

Government officials have already made that clear, and everything in recent economic, administrative, and political decisions indicates that the proper conditions for implementing this new orientation are being met.

This being the case, it seems useful to us first to examine the reasons that have led up to this new choice (for it is indeed a new choice); next, in the light of the changes developing now, to try to state the objectives of the "regional" strategy.

By critically examining the last two decades of development and, more concretely, by learning the lessons of 1975 general census, Tunisian officials have concluded that a well-defined regional development policy is necessary.

Examining the last two decades has revealed that despite changing options, the development model adopted by Tunisia since it gained independence has always followed a macro-economic growth dynamic; it has turned in a good performance, but it has not been well-adapted to evaluating properly the imbalances affecting various socio-economic components, nor has it made it possible to alleviate them.

In the period of recovery and general development that followed independence, and, all the more so in the sectorial growth phase that has characterized the country's economy since 1970, choices and achievements could be indexed only by overall development indicators and coefficients. Obviously this was likely to make it easy to overlook missing "details" and to relegate to the secondary status of ad hoc solutions the measures that, in the best cases, could be taken to correct these oversights.

For example, things like the rural exodus or the shift of resources from one region to another were concerns at the time, but the complexity and extent they have gained with the passing of time were never expected, because general evaluation indices such as the overall growth rate, the gross national product, per capita income, etc. gave no indication of them.

But these conclusions of principle were not by themselves determining ones; the 1975 census was needed to bring the matter to full light. The results of the census, while not exhaustive, were enough to show that the model adopted by Tunisia had led people to underestimate seriously the resulting imbalance of overall growth and the absence of a real policy of regional development.

The interpretation was enlightening:

--An imbalance in population followed an imbalance in setting up activities for "overall development";

--The production per region is out of balance;

--There is imbalance between the regions themselves;

--There is imbalance between sectors.

The question arises whether imbalance is not itself the actual rule of development, whether it is not a dialectic element of development, and whether it would not be better, all things considered, to accept it philosophically as the bitter fruit of development.

Fortunately the leaders did not stop at these questions. The prevailing idea among them today is that the imbalances noted should be considered toxins, or mistakes, and that it is possible to conceive of another model of growth that will perform well and yet make it possible to do away with them or at least alleviate them. Hence the determination they have shown to find clear solutions to the "problem" by implementing a real strategy of territorial and regional development.

This strategy may be expected to have three major objectives:

An economic objective for regional development. This will consist in developing all the potential resources of the country that are still underutilized or not utilized in the regions.

A social objective. This objective will coordinate with the first and will aim at improving the income and standard of living of households presently below the poverty level and unable to meet essential needs. These households will be aided by participating in the country's development effort.

A political objective, last but not least. The fact of regional development will create an exemplary median society, one in which the reduction of imbalances between individuals and groups of individuals will make it possible to reduce social tensions between Tunisian citizens and will make national unity an unalterable reality.

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STATE EXPRESSES IMPORTANCE OF FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Tunis LA PRESSE in French 7 Oct 80 p 4

[Article: "Mr Ben Osman: The State is Determined To Promote the Basic Infrastructure and Aid Producers by All Means Available"]

[Text] Mr Lassad Ben Osman, the minister of agriculture, presided over the opening of a seminar yesterday morning on the "fishing wealth in the Gulf of Gabes." It was held by the National Institute of Oceanography with the cooperation of the General Commissariat of Fisheries.

Noted participants in the seminar were Messrs Mohamed Belhaj Ali, director of the Institute; Mohamed Hamza, acting general commissioner of Fisheries; Mohamed Zouali, general director of the National Office of Fisheries (ONP), and a great number of researchers and professional fishermen.

Mr Ben Osman opened the seminar, saying that it would have to examine questions of great importance for fishing and for the development of fisheries on the most densely marine-populated areas of the Tunisian coast.

"This seminar," he said, "is part of a series of conferences that will be held to increase direct and constructive contact with all who are concerned with Tunisian fisheries, their rational exploitation, development, and conservation."

After emphasizing the importance that the government attaches to this important sector, the minister mentioned that Tunisia has, in addition to its 1,300 km of coastline, a large continental shelf off of Gabes. Mr Lassad Ben Osman explained, "These fisheries are for Tunisia and all Tunisians an advantage that must in no way be neglected. That is why it is important to regulate their use and protect them against any anarchic and unplanned use."

On this subject, the minister emphasized the need to inform fishers of the various studies made by the National Institute of Oceanography, which, he noted, not only does purely scientific work but also, with the cooperation of fishers, performs practical experiments likely to favor both a complementarity of efforts undertaken in this sector by all parties concerned and to give this department access to the outside area that is the object of its study.

The minister hoped that the Institute would be able to consolidate cooperation among the various fishermen and undertake research that would meet this sector's needs. He mentioned that his department has decided to establish similar institutes in the coastal areas.

He also expressed the hope of seeing closer ties between producers and the ONP and said that the Office's mission is not to compete with producers but to help them in prospecting on the fishing banks through its financial resources, staff, and technical potential.

The minister was also gratified by the efforts made by the National Federation of Fisheries, which has established regional fishing banks, which, he said, are actually mutual assistance societies that assist producers in marketing their catch.

In conclusion, the minister stressed that the complementarity of efforts by the parties concerned naturally tends to develop the fisheries sector, especially since the government has made enormous efforts to build new fishing ports and is determined to promote the basic infrastructure and to help producers by all possible means.

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BRIEFS

TWO ISLANDS LINKED--The Executive Council discussed in its meeting yesterday, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, the crown prince and president of the council, the project concerning reclaiming the lands of the islands of Hudayriyat and Bu al-Sayayif, and forming one island to be later linked to Abu Dhabi, the mother island, through one bridge to meet the population growth. This project was initiated by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nihyan, the chief of state, during his latest visit to these islands. The implementation of this project will require transferring 35 million cubic meters of sand so that the new island reaches 9 kilometers with the possibility for further expansion. The two islands are located southwest of Abu Dhabi. The islands of Hudayriyat and Bu al-Sayayif are located 5 and 7 kilometers respectively from Abu Dhabi. The distance between the two islands is 2 kilometers. The council also discussed the project of developing the south channel in Abu Dhabi. Moreover, the council discussed the electric power station project in Umm al-Nar, west 7 and 8, which will include the installation of two steam turbines each of 160 megawatts. Furthermore, this project will include the installation of four desalination units with a daily capacity of 20 million gallons of water. The council reviewed a number of matters related to providing citizens with services and the appropriation of additional funds for the projects of Bint Sa'ud and al-Za'lah in al-'Ayn, and the approval of new funds for the afforestation projects in the municipality of Abu Dhabi. [Text] [Abu Dhabi AL-WAHDAH in Arabic 22 Sep 80 p 4]

EMIRATES OIL CORPORATION--Abu Dhabi, Oct. 11 (Ittihad)--Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr. Mana Saeed Al Oteiba today received a representative of Caltex company as part of the consultations being conducted by the Ministry for establishment of the Emirates Oil Corporation (EOC). The consultations are part of a study being conducted on the offers made by oil companies for managing the proposed corporation. The meeting was attended by the Ministry Under-Secretary Al Shiba Al Hamily who is conducting the discussions with the concerned companies. Later, the Minister also received a delegation from Carmaji oil company. [Text] [Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 12 Oct 80 p 3/]

LEGAL DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED--Sharjah, Oct. 13 (Ittihad)--The Sharjah Chamber of Trade and Industry has decided to set up a legal department to handle all legal problems between local and foreign merchants, director general of the chamber Abdul Razaq Harji said. He added that the rising membership of the chamber which has now reached nearly 5,000, including merchants and businessmen, requires the establishment of a legal department to study and receive complaints and find suitable solutions to them. Hajri said that a decision has also been taken to expand the existing departments of the chamber to deal with the increasing activities to trade and industry.
/Text/ /Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 14 Oct 80 p 3/

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